



A483 JUNCTION WORKS DEFENDED

Report by Jonny Drury

COUNCILLORS say they are hopeful work to improve a road junction on the edge of Oswestry will help reduce accidents – despite two crashes at the site within weeks of it re-opening.

They have praised the work at the A483 Maesbury Road junction and say collisions will decrease once drivers get used to the new layout.

The junction, which was a notorious accident blackspot, was closed for five months to allow for safety improvements. Kier carried out work on behalf of Highways England, putting in a traffic lights and widening the approach in both directions. During the first weeks of opening two accidents have occurred, prompting comments online from local motorists that the new system won't work.

However, local councillors this week defended the new layout and told motorists to give it time. Parish councillor Rob Milton said people need to learn how to use the road system properly.

He said: "I think the new system is tremendous and the problems that have been caused have been worthwhile. It has made me think why hasn't this system always been like that."

"I have approached it from all directions and have had no problems. People need to give it time to work and to use the road system properly."

Oswestry town councillor Mike Coppock said: "I have used it going across to Knockin to get supplies and it seems fine and simple to use. It isn't great we've had these accidents already. It has caused a great deal of disruption, cost a lot of money and cost businesses money so we really want to see it work. I've seen some comments from people about rights of way, but I think people need to get used to it. It is for the better, so people need to get used to it, bear with it and it will work."

Highways England senior project manager Jessica Kenny said: "We constantly review the safety of all junctions and where improvements have been made we'd encourage motorists to familiarise themselves with the new layout."

"Now work at this junction is complete, motorists will benefit from safer as well as smoother journeys."

● **What do you think? Is the new layout at the junction better or worse? Email your views to news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk**

Mayor's mind is jam-packed with fundraising ideas



Oswestry Mayor Sandy Best with a selection of her jams and chutneys she is selling for charity. Photo: Jamie Ricketts.

WE all may have suffered a bit in the summer heat in recent weeks, but Oswestry's mayor has been slaving over a hot stove to raise money for her mayoral charities.

Councillor Sandy Best has made hundreds of pots of jams and chutneys and is selling them in aid of the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund and the Shropshire Young Carers Group.

Her concoctions include not only the marmalades and strawberry jams that many

people make but more unusual preserves, from apricot and gooseberry jam to rhubarb and orange chutney. The mayor has already raised £860 from selling "Sandy's Scrumptious" goodies.

As well as buying the ingredients she is also getting donations of fruit and vegetables from friends and neighbours. She said: "I only make small batches at a time and what I have available will be dependent on what I have in

season. I am very grateful to those who have been giving me produce from their gardens. When I became deputy mayor I started to think about ways in which I could raise funds for charity. I have always liked baking and I wanted to do something that would involve me giving my time to the fundraising."

Anyone who would like to buy a jar, for a minimum donation of £1.50, should inquire at The Guildhall or call (01691) 680222.

PLANNING

Council is set to ask ombudsman to look at flats row

WELSHPOOL Town Council is set to report Powys County Council to the Local Government Ombudsman over the handling of a planning application.

The town council is unhappy about a planning committee meeting held by Powys County Council regarding a block of flats being built on the site of a former social club. Despite concerns from local residents, permission was narrowly granted at the planning meeting in Welshpool.

However, the town council is now claiming the proper procedures were not carried out at a rearranged meeting that was originally cancelled due to heavy snowfall. The town council also claims committee members were not provided with a detailed presentation. An original complaint made by the town council was rejected by the county authority, leading to the town council to go to the ombudsman.

In a letter in response to the town council's original complaint, Gemma Bufton, principal planning officer for Powys County Council, said: "I do not uphold your complaint. It is considered that all statutory requirements were followed and appropriate consideration was given within the officer's report and presentation to the members of the committee to the concerns raised."

ENTERTAINMENT

Show expected to draw in big crowd

THOUSANDS of people are expected to flock to this weekend's Oswestry and District Agricultural Show.

The annual show, which will be held on Saturday, has a whole host of attractions for all the family.

Spectators can enjoy a packed programme including judging of livestock, a parade of vintage vehicles and machinery and a motorbike display by the Jamie Squibb Freestyle Stunt Team.

● **Thousands – See Page 17**

INSIDE

Crunch health talks are held



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Help to extradite suspects for execution criticised

Report by Jonny Drury

AN MP has hit out at UK Home Secretary Sajid Javid for aiding the extradition of two suspected ISIS terrorists to the US for execution.

The Home Secretary was last week accused of taking the power of life and death into his own hands over his decision to help the US in its efforts to convict and execute two Islamic State terrorism suspects.

Human rights lawyers are preparing to challenge the move, with Ken Macdonald QC, a former director of public prosecutions, insisting the Home Secretary had "abandoned a moral policy" by deciding to suspend the normal approach of demanding an assurance that the pair would not face capital punishment.

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies has hit out at the move.

He said: "When I was a teenager, a very long time ago, I opposed capital punishment.

"How could we oppose the taking of life if the state did that on our behalf?

"At the time I was in a minority amongst those I knew.

"So what to think of the Home Secretary allowing former British citizens, who committed the most heinous of murders as Jihadist fighters to be tried for their crimes in the US, where they could be sentenced to death?

"I don't like it, but I would dislike it a whole lot more if they returned to Britain and not tried at all.

"Those who left to become Jihadist fighters are utterly evil."

Mr Davies believes that a new law should be created so these men can be tried in the UK.

He has called for them to be jailed for life and believes capital punishment is not the right option.

He added: "We need a new law of treason so that they can be tried and punished for their barbarism in the UK.

"Anyone who has behaved an innocent person should be incarcerated for life."

Warning issued to aqueduct paddle boarders



I wouldn't do that if I was you – paddle boarders are being urged to walk along the towpath at Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

THRILL-SEEKING paddle boarders and cyclists are putting lives at risk crossing Britain's highest aqueduct at the Pontcysyllte Canal World Heritage Site.

The Canal & River Trust charity in Wales has launched PontySafety to stop dozens of people who use the stand-up boards along the aqueduct trough, which has no railing on one side, or who cycle along the narrow towpath.

The trust, which cares for 2,000 miles of canals in Wales and England, is appealing

to everyone to share the space in a responsible way and not take unnecessary risks.

Ani Sutton, of the Canal & River Trust said: "I am a paddle boarder myself and I know how easy it is to get blown over or off course.

"The aqueduct has its own micro climate, with sudden gusts of wind.

"Anyone who stands up on a paddle board across the aqueduct, with no safety railings, is taking crazy risks.

"We ask everyone to get off their board

and walk along the towpath, towing their paddle board in the water behind them."

The 11-mile Llangollen Canal World Heritage Site features two aqueducts at Pontcysyllte and Chirk and two tunnels at Chirk and Whitehouse. The Canal & River Trust safety guidance is that it is fine to paddle board over Chirk Aqueduct, which has better safety protection but paddle boarders should dismount and tow their boards along the Pontcysyllte and through the two tunnels.

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Highways hold-up to homes proposals

TRAFFIC concerns from Highways England are holding up debate on plans for 150 new homes on the edge of Oswestry.

Previously the government agency called for a traffic assessment from the developer to look at the impact of the proposed new homes on the strategic road network.

The site, south of Middleton Road, is close to the Oswestry bypass which carries not one but two trunk roads, the A5 and the A483.

Highways England has written to Shropshire Council saying it has received the assessment but has not had time to digest it.

The roads authority has said a decision on the application should be postponed for three months.

Earlier this year the government gave a £9.3million grant for major work to two roundabouts on the bypass, improvements to the Maesbury Road staggered junction and the building of a new roundabout on the Shrewsbury Road to allow access into a neighbouring site on which permission was sought for around 600 new homes.

Plans laid down for village show

RHYDYCROESAU Village Show near Oswestry will take place this year on August 18.

The committee has checked and finalised this year's arrangements which include new prizes for the shearing competition which includes a speed shearing contest.

There will be horticulture, produce and arts and crafts sections as well as a dog show. Also on the field will be competitions and sideshows including the much contested welly wanging competition, a blacksmith display and crockery smashing.

The show starts at 12.30pm and admission for adults is £2 and £1 for children.

Inspectors must return after data error found

Report by Jonny Drury

AN inspection of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital will need to be conducted again after a commission used entirely wrong data from another hospital to complete a report.

Inspectors from the Care Quality Commission arrived at the hospital in January.

Data was given to the CQC for the report, however when receiving a draft report hospital officials found discrepancies.

It was then revealed that data from a different hospital was used to compile the report. The CQC has now issued an apology and said it will be returning for another full inspection. A CQC spokesman said: "The CQC is going back to inspect at Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt NHS Foundation Trust. Following the initial inspection in January this year, the trust raised some concerns that resulted in a review of how the inspection was conducted. As a result we have decided to undertake the inspection again.

"We have apologised to the trust and will be undertaking a full review of the original inspection."

A whole new inspection team will now return, but it is unknown when that will be.

It could be as far away as June, however chief executive Mark Brandreth has already put his staff on high alert and to be ready for an inspection at any time.

He said he appreciated the CQC's openness and apology and looked forward to welcoming them back and showing the services they have at the hospital.

He said: "The Care Quality Commission visited us in January to inspect our services, and a reporting detailing that inspection was due to be published in the spring.

"However, on receiving a draft copy of the report, we identified an error in the data pack on which they had based their report. We notified the CQC of this error immediately and they have subsequently investigated and written to us promising to return and carry out a fresh inspection in the near future."

Hopes are high for In Bloom success



Jason Brotherton waters planters in the town centre ahead of the In Bloom visit

LAST minute spruce-ups have been under way for the most important In Bloom visit in Oswestry's history.

Last year the town took the very top award in its category in Heart of England in Bloom for the first time which took it into the 2018 national Britain in Bloom competition.

Volunteers were due to meet the national judges in the town yesterday (Wednesday) for Oswestry's inspection.

Chairman of the Oswestry in Bloom committee Betty Gull said the national judges were very keen on the horticultural side of the competition.

"This will be a great adventure for Oswestry and we need to get the town looking its best before Wednesday," she said ahead of yesterday's visit. The town council has been heavily involved in promoting its hanging baskets and plant-

ers scheme and putting in plans to ensure that Cae Glas Park, already described by previous judges at "the jewel in the crown" of the town, is looking its best, with workers on the case on a daily basis. Oswestry is one of the smallest in the large town category and will be up against rival regional winners, Beverley, Penrith, Ballymena, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Bury St Edmunds, Congleton, Colwyn Bay and Perth.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bank raises over £1k for hospice

A BANK in Oswestry has raised more than £1,000 for Severn Hospice through a host of fundraising events.

TSB has been holding cake sales, raffles, books sales and various competitions in the last year for the hospice that provides specialist care to families across the region who are living with an incurable illness.

Alexandra Honey, bank manager at TSB in Oswestry, said: "Our Local Charity Partnership programme is all about working in partnership to help support the local causes that are the lifeblood of many communities across Britain. It's been fantastic to support Severn Hospice."

Holiday park is now up for sale

A RIVERSIDE holiday park in Llan-gollen is up for sale.

The Eirianfa site, a former caravan site, now has planning permission for 35 log cabins, with one three-bedroom lodge already built and another under construction. The 4.65 acre site is on the edge of the tourist town.

Robert Smithson from agents, Colliers International, said: "The site will be particularly attractive to families and sports enthusiasts as it has direct access to the River Dee and its fishing rights, which splendidly complement the wide range of country leisure activities on offer nearby, including, archery; golf; mountain biking; hill walking; white water rafting and off-road driving.

Art society to hear about mystery

THE Arts Society, Mid Wales & Borders, begins its 2018/19 lecture programme on September 27.

The speaker is Malcolm Kenwood, whose talk is titled The Mona Lisa Mystery. The venue is the Royal Oak Hotel, Welshpool. The talk will begin at 2.30pm sharp. Non-members are very welcome, but a donation of £6 per person towards costs will be appreciated.

For further information contact (01691) 658110.

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Poppy – waiting for a walk

Dog walkers needed for Poppy, 11

A NATIONAL charity has stepped in to help an 11-year-old collie called Poppy get regular walks. The Cinnamon Trust is looking for volunteers in Oswestry to walk Poppy because her owner is no longer able to do so. Sally Collins from the trust said:

“We seek to keep owner and pet together for as long as possible with the help of a national network of volunteers who assist when day to day care poses a problem. “Our aim is to relieve the owners of any worry concerning the welfare of their pets both during and after

their own lifetime making us unique amongst charities. “What happens if illness, injury or just the fact that we all get older eventually affects our ability to look after our four legged companions? A large number of elderly or ill pet owners become very worried about

their ability to care for their pets, feeling that their only option is to rehome them, this is where our national network of dedicated volunteers step in to offer support enabling them to stay together.” Anyone wishing to walk Poppy should call (01736) 758707 .

Burglars flee property after family returns home

Report by Sue Austin

BURGLARS fled when the family of the house they had broken into returned home.

The shocked householders disturbed a group of men who were inside the property in Hawthorne Grove in Oswestry and the raiders ran off over neighbours' gardens to escape.

The frightening incident happened on Monday and police, who are increasing patrols in the area, are appealing for help in finding the intruders. Neighbours took to Facebook after seeing men jumping over six foot fences through gardens before disappearing in the Holly Green area.

Warning over fake gardener

POLICE are warning of a con man who scammed money from a resident by pretending to carry out gardening at their home.

Described as a teenager, the man walked into a house in Meadow Close, Oswestry, through an unlocked door at about 11am on July 18. He demanded £300 for work he said he had done in the garden, then reduced the sum to £130.

Police say he eventually left with £40. They said no work had been requested, no identification was shown and no receipt was given.

The male is described as white, approximately five foot four inches tall, in his late teens, with short brown hair and wearing a yellow T-shirt and navy blue jeans.

Anyone with information should ring police on 101.

One said there were five masked intruders and said a small black Audi was believed to be involved.

Police say the frightened Oswestry family raised the alarm after getting home at about 8pm on Monday to find men inside their house.

Inspector Tracy Ryan said: “The householders disturbed a group of males when they returned home. They ran off and their was no confrontation between them and the offenders. A number of officers were quickly on the scene including dog handlers.”

A search of the area was made and police also carried out house to house inquiries.

Officers say they are keeping an open mind over whether the break-in could be linked to a group of youths seen acting suspiciously in the Priorslee area of Telford.

Officers in Telford took to social media on Monday to say they had received reports of passengers in a black Audi A3 acting suspiciously and looking into properties although no burglaries had been reported.

Sweet idea helps out hospice



Children Jake Paddock and Althea Mullis with member of staff Lily Collins and Hope House fundraiser Rachel Lewis with the cheque

YOUNGSTERS from a childcare group in a village near Oswestry have helped raise cash for Hope House Children's Hospice through a sweet idea.

Little Explorers from Trefonen along with Explorers in Shrewsbury recently attended the Shropshire Kids Festival and Shrewsbury Food Festival.

They baked with 724 children and produced a total of 4,344 cupcakes.

Parents and carers were asked for a donation to Hope House Children's Hospice in return for the children's experience and the cupcakes and they managed to raise over £700 for the hospice. The hospice is based at Morda near Oswestry.

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Disgraced solicitor ordered to repay victims £700k

Report by Deborah Hardiman

A DISGRACED solicitor turned financial advisor has been ordered to repay around half of the £1.4 million that he stole from clients.

David Vaughan Jones, 79, of Leighton, Welshpool, was put behind bars for six years in May last year after being convicted of numerous fraud crimes.

He admitted a total of 24 fraud and theft charges between 1994 and 2015, but had been given a chance by a judge to pay back what he owed. However, he never paid a penny and was jailed. The amount involved was £1,495,000 although one victim had obtained £98,384 following civil proceedings.

£10 million needed to fix service

JUST under £10 million will be needed to put right children's services at a local authority according to a scrutiny committee report.

Powys County Council's children's services has been making improvements since it was subject of a damning report in October. Children had been put at serious risk of harm, however millions have so far been invested to improve the situation and changes have been made.

A finance scrutiny panel met in June and made a number of observations and concerns over the finances of the children's service. The report found that a further increase in the budget will be needed in the region of £3.2 million, on top of £6.1 million already allocated.

The report stated: "There is extreme concern that from the figures given in the portfolio holder's briefing report, it would appear that a further substantial increase in budget will be required in the region of £3.2 million in addition to the £6.1 million already allocated."

"The panel will need early assurance that this overspend situation is addressed as there is significant concern regarding the impact upon, and risk to, the council's budget from 2019/20 and beyond."

Following his sentence Jones was made subject to an application by the Dyfed-Powys Police Financial Crime Team for the recovery of all known assets held by him in order to compensate his victims as much as possible under the Proceeds of Crime Act. At a hearing at Mold Crown Court Judge Niclas Parry heard that Jones's criminal benefit was £1,861,211 and that he had available assets of £704,292.

He ordered the figure be recouped from the sale of Jones's home and his car plus the funds in his bank accounts which were all seized by the crime team.

In addition he is required to sell his shareholding in a local business or face a further 42 months in prison in default should he fail to achieve an acceptable value for the shares.

The £704,292 is to be distributed amongst the 14 victims pro-rata to take account of their individual losses.

Paul Callard, Financial Crime Team lead, said: "The actions of David Vaughan Jones caused considerable misery to a lot of people. We will use all legislation available to us to recover money and assets obtained by criminals to ensure that crime doesn't pay." The court previously heard how Jones, once regarded as a pillar of the community, persuaded people to invest in off-shore accounts to generate a higher rate of interest than in the UK.

But his downfall came when it was revealed that the founder member of the Evangelical Church in Newtown conned friends and churchgoers out of thousands of pounds to line his pocket.

Jones had insisted that he had the means to repay and had travelled to the Channel Islands five times in an effort to resolve the matter before he was jailed.



David Vaughan Jones of Leighton, Welshpool, admitted fraud and theft charges

Angel could become listed

SHROPSHIRE'S Knife Angel sculpture could become a listed monument as part of Historic England's Immortalised project.

Hundreds of forgotten, quirky, secret and little-known memorials across England have been nominated for listed status by members of the public.

They all commemorate lives loved and lost. The Knife Angel was created by sculptor Alfie Bradley at the British Ironwork

Centre near Oswestry. It is made from knives handed in as part of weapons amnesties across the country or confiscated by police. Chairman of the centre Clive Knowles said the nomination was humbling.

"This means so much to us and it will mean so much more to all the families that have been not just involved but have their children's names engraved on this monument of peace," he said.

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PETER RHODES



A READER says he is surprised that Whitehall has launched task-force inquiries into the feasibility of both recyclable containers and rechargeable electric vehicles. He seems to recall that half-a-century ago the roads were full of such vehicles laden with hundreds of such containers, all containing milk. It must be the heat, sir. Your mind is clearly playing tricks.

IN the same way, I'm sure I remember milkmen on electric floats delivering orange squash. What was that all about?

HAS there ever been a summer when the TV cameras have not dropped in at the publicity-astute Halfpenny Green Vineyard near Wolverhampton to report on the state of the vintage? According to the latest bulletin from BBC Midlands Today, this year's vintage will be terrific – and there'll be plenty of it, folks. The camera lingered lovingly on the neck of a white-wine bottle and the "Halfpenny Green" label as they poured the chilled, inviting stuff. Officially, the BBC does not do advertising.

I AM delighted to host the on-going debate on whether "gammon," a term applied solely to white people, is racist. One of the latest contributions from a reader is: "There is no such thing as racism against white people." Hang on. Why are we whiteys spared the scourge of suffering racism? Isn't that a bit, well, racist? Ideally, this debate would be happening in mid-winter rather than in high summer when so many folk, regardless of their politics, are on the burnt-bacon side of pink. Oh dear, I may have gone too far.

MEANWHILE, count your blessings on two fronts. A couple of readers make good points. Firstly, why should we moan about the heat when every year millions of Britons head overseas in search of such weather? Secondly, isn't it blessed relief to be spared the endless midsummer roar of lawnmowers?

A READER is shocked to have become a "they." He explains that a Channel 5 programme on the drought referred to how "we" are now experiencing temperatures in the 30s but in the drought year of 1976 "they" had a dry winter. "I feel slightly uncomfortable to be a 'they'," he says. "Does the presenter think we have all died?" And here's something to cut out and keep – the words of a pundit on the radio who declared: "This sort of weather is going to be the summer norm over the next 20 years." When it is chucking it down next July, read it again.



Bosses discuss ways to improve plastic's image



Sir David Attenborough put plastic in the spotlight



The scourge of plastic affects beaches worldwide

Plastic is still fantastic, insist industry bosses

Chiefs gather for conference in Shropshire and pledge to fight recent bad press. By JAMES PUGH

YOU would expect executives from the plastics industry to be licking their wounds as they assembled in Shropshire.

But they were in bullish mood, despite the bad press they have suffered since the issue of plastic waste was raised by Sir David Attenborough's Blue Planet II.

The message coming from the Plastics, Design & Moulding event in Telford was that the material does have a future, although there is a need for a more innovative approach.

The two-day PDM conference, at Telford International Centre, called for the industry to fight back by highlighting the benefits plastic products have to our everyday lives.

Sir David's BBC documentary highlighted the environmental catastrophe as a million birds and more than 100,000 sea mammals die from eating and getting tangled in plastic waste.

Philip Law, director general of the British Plastics Federation, said: "We are currently in the grip of uncertainty. We are at the mercy of the rapidly shifting sands of global politics."

"The public image of plastics, if there is such a thing, has taken a knock – spurred on by the media and also incited by David Attenborough's Blue Planet II programme."

"This pressure is by no means confined to the UK. In France, Macron is putting more pressure on the plastics industry."



Philip Law, British Plastics Federation director general, at the PDM conference

"The industry will emerge stronger, leaner and fitter than ever before, even if we have to accept new regulation which I actually think will serve to protect us in the future."

"We have got a high level of innovation and a diversified spectrum of markets."

"Products of the future will be many and varied."

"It will take us into new areas."

"Personally, I am really confident about the role of plastics in the future."

"It remains the material of the 21st century and onwards, and it will be an essential component of at least the UK economy."

Theresa May has described plastic waste as "one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world"

and said the UK was taking a lead in tackling the problem.

A consultation on banning disposable plastic products will launch later this year in an effort to cut the amount of waste that ends up in rivers and oceans.

Major food groups, including McDonald's, are looking to replace plastic straws with paper products.

There are currently about 5,000 manufacturers of plastic products in the UK, and the industry employs 170,000 people.

Dr Paul Shipton, consultancy director of Shawbury-based rubber and plastic testing centre Smithers Rapra, said: "I think the industry is pretty invisible."

"People rely on the industry but they don't really engage in it."

"Everyone is very pleased with their

mobile phone or computer. They appreciate the product but don't understand the plastics in it."

"Brave, ambitious targets have been set."

"I think there is a danger we could be too defensive about the industry."

"We have got to show we can innovate and that the industry is no different to any other."

"The products themselves – if they are handled in the right way – are pretty harmless."

"Lots of things are put into the sea; plastics float but other materials don't. That is one of the problems."

Sensible

"We need sensible laws and regulations to be made."

"We have got to have a national policy. Part of our job is to give the best support we can to consumer companies."

He added: "We need to show the benefits, not just to the environment, but to the consumer as well."

Theresa May has launched a long-term strategy to tackle the issue, including eradicating all avoidable plastic waste in the UK by 2042.

Key to this is a crackdown on throw-away plastics. Under the Government's plan, supermarkets will be urged to introduce "plastic-free" aisles while taxes and charges on single-use items such as takeaway containers will be considered.

Roger Baynham, chairman of BPF Recycling Group, said: "Yes, we do have a real job to do to manage plastics and make sure it doesn't get into the natural environment, but we have also got a massive job to do to talk about the benefits of plastics in society. It is fundamental to so many aspects of our lives."

As well as the waste crisis, talks were also held at the conference on the Chinese ban on plastic waste imports and Brexit.

WORKING FOR YOU



The European Court of Justice ruled on Wednesday last week that organisms created using precise, pioneering gene-editing techniques should be subject to the same almost prohibitive regulatory hurdles as those created by genetic modification must clear.

This represents a major setback for the many scientists who hoped that the court would recognise the difference between gene editing and genetic modification (GMO) techniques: gene-editing involves changes to an organism's DNA, but does not involve the insertion of foreign genes.

But this ruling, sadly, was all too predictable a manifestation of the European Union's extreme aversion to innovation. It will have, as plant physiologist Professor Stefan Jansson from Umeå University in Sweden puts it, "a chilling effect on research, in the same way that GMO legislation has had a chilling effect for 15 years now." The world's largest chemical company, BASF, has already abandoned all further biotechnology research for the European market. The EU is destined to become the Museum of World Farming.

Yet viewed from any kind of rational standpoint, current progress in genetic technology is merely the natural development of the husbandry which mankind has practised for millennia. We have bred and crossbred plants since the Stone Age to modify their genetic makeup, produce higher yields and promote resistance to pests and disease. We have reached a position in which, as the author Henry Miller noted, "virtually everything in North American and European diets has been genetically improved in some way."

Genetic technologies simply eliminate the guesswork. A plant can have its genetic makeup adjusted with precision with the result that, from over two trillion meals served containing biotech crops, nobody has ever made a credible claim of adverse reaction.

The potential for these technologies to alleviate food scarcity is vast, in the tradition of Norman Borlaug's Green Revolution which saw genetic modification of wheat relieve appalling food shortages on the Indian subcontinent to turn it into a net exporter.

This episode highlights the importance of truly leaving the EU, and the dangers of maintaining the so-called "common rulebook".

Owen Paterson
North Shropshire MP

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IF LOCAL AUTHORITY WRITES TO YOU ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN, SEE A SOLICITOR IMMEDIATELY!

Q: I have been given a letter from the Local Authority about my children. The letter says that I should 'take this to a Solicitor' and that there is an upcoming meeting. As I haven't had much involvement with my children I cannot really understand why or how a meeting about them would involve me, although the letter does say there are concerns that the children aren't attending at school. I'm worried because clearly I should be taking this to a solicitor, but I simply can't afford the cost. Could you please point me in the right direction of someone who might be able to help?

A: Firstly, under NO circumstances should you ignore this letter; or any other correspondence that advises you to see a solicitor.

From the information you have provided, it sounds as if the Local Authority have arranged a 'PLO' meeting, which is also known as a 'Pre Proceedings Meeting'. If that is the case, it is a very serious meeting that is held when the Local Authority have concerns about the care provided to your children. The meeting is an opportunity for the Local Authority to outline their concerns and put forward a plan they wish you to follow. If you fail to attend the PLO or you do not engage with the plan forward at the PLO meeting, then the Local Authority may issue court proceedings in respect of your children.

It is extremely important that you immediately contact a firm of solicitors who specialise in child proceedings and provide them with a copy of this letter. You will be entitled to legal aid for representation at a PLO meeting so you do not need to worry about meeting any legal costs.

Further information relating to this question is available from Mari Sherrington, a Trainee Solicitor with GHP Legal. For an appointment visit www.ghplegal.com or contact one of our offices: Oswestry 01691 659194, Chirk 01691 777949, Wrexham 01978 291456, Llangollen 01978 860313. We offer free legal diagnostic clinics (no appointment necessary). In Oswestry, Wednesdays 12noon-3pm for Personal Injury, Employment & Family matters. In Wrexham, Mondays 9.30am-12noon for Employment matters, 12noon – 3pm for Personal Injury & Family matters. GHP Legal is authorised and regulated by the SRA 51566, and Lexcel Accredited.



Enforcement of speed limits is vital

I NOTICE in recent times that some have been putting forward suggestions of a blanket 20mph speed in built-up areas. I wonder if they have given much thought to the enforcement of such a speed limit? The police are not able to enforce the current 30/40/50/60/70mph speed limits so what chance a 20mph limit? If speed limits are not properly enforced motorists soon realise this and it bring the speed limit into disrepute. This is one reason why so

many motorists continue to use their mobile phones and to jump the proliferation of traffic lights at junctions.

I note it is claimed that accidents would be reduced if everyone reduced their speed to 20mph. Well, accidents would be even more reduced at 15mph! It is really about setting the right speed limit in the right place. Then enough motorists might support the idea. Another problem is that many cars do not drive well at 20mph and

need to be kept in a low gear revving away – there is no point in saving a few lives and killing many through dangerous emissions.

So how about a range of variable speed limits, perhaps 20mph in a busy high street in the daytime, increasing at other times, 20mph speed limits around schools and similar places when they are open, and so on.

RICHARD CAMP
Wellington

Root causes of doctors leaving must be addressed

NEW figures that show over a million patients have had to move GP surgeries in the last five years because of 450 practice closures will resonate with the experience of GPs in the West Midlands.

The recruitment and retention GP crisis in the West Midlands is impacting practices of all sizes and all situations, as doctors face the pressures of rising workload, an increasing administrative burden and a lack of resources.

General practice plays an essential role offering continuity of care where patients can build a trusting long-term relationship with their practice.

But, when practices close, this important foundation can be put at risk and patients' experiences may suffer as a result.

While there are a number of initiatives under way to recruit GPs into our area, they will take some time before producing results.

Frontline GPs and wider practice teams are going to great lengths in order to keep offering the best service to their patients in the most difficult circumstances, but they cannot do it without proper support and long-term funding.

The government must work with organisations such as the BMA to make general practice a more appealing profession.

They must tackle the root causes for the departure of hard-working doctors and ensure that all patients continue to receive high quality and timely care at a local surgery.

Without the proper investment in primary care, the knock-on effects on the rest of the health service and society as a whole will cost the government dearly in the long run.

DR STEPHEN MILLAR
BMA West Midlands
Regional council chair

Are people fearing Hell?

NO sensible person starts out on a journey without knowing the destination and the way to get there. Yet in the journey of life that's what most people seem to be doing.

We know that sooner or later we are all going to die, but we don't know where we are going afterwards. We all hope we are going to paradise in Heaven, so why are most terrified of dying if we are going to a place where it's all joy and peace, no more pain and suffering? Are they afraid of Hell?

Millions of people are quite sure where they are going since they invited Jesus, God's son, into their lives. He is the one who conquered death and rose again.

RON JONES
St Martins

A close-up view of councillors' planning chat



Last week we carried a picture of this same event – a meeting of Oswestry borough councillors and county councillors at Park Hall Camp, near Oswestry, to discuss details of a proposed gipsy site – but in this version you can actually see the faces and who was there. The picture was taken on a snowy day in February 1979.

Don't be fooled by another ploy to derail Brexit

HERE we go again! I refer to the ploy to derail Brexit.

It's called the People's Vote party. Hold on, I thought the people had a democratic vote on the future of this country? Fantastically rich people are pouring huge sums of money to unset democracy.

We have the unelected lords sitting in their house, many of them hardly able to keep awake, and assisting if they can do, to overturn the will of the people. Grotesque isn't it? We should realise that the money tycoons aren't pouring money into this abysmal campaign to enhance the future of this country, but to protect their own bloated bank accounts.

In conclusion, I must say, that many people I have spoken to who voted to remain, accept that a democratic decision was taken by the British people and should be honoured. The People's Vote party, would use many ordinary people to rise up and demand a new vote, to support vested interests. Don't be fooled!

GL DUCKETT
Dawley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
The Chronicle,
14 Salop Road,
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

EMAIL

ian.stjohn@
shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Bureaucrats are taking things over

THE threat to community buses is typical of the way Britain is being taken over by faceless bureaucrats and jobsworths, who want to improve regulations for their own sake.

Most people thought that leaving the EU would mean an end to unnecessary regulations, that's why we voted leave, but not a bit of it!

Big brother is taking over in every aspect of our lives and the Illuminati seem to have won!

W F KERSWELL
Picklestcott

Racing car plan is just another anti-British law

I SEE another ill considered, unreasonable and irrational ruling by the founders of illogical nonsense – the EU – have done it again and are publishing proposals to make racing cars subject to the rules of the road and so have to pay third-party insurance.

Leading London insurers have indicated that it would be too big a risk to insure racing cars, placing every Europe-based grand prix in jeopardy.

Seven of the 10 F1 racing teams have a base in Britain creating £2 billion of business, mostly for export and supplying 40,000 jobs.

It is just another anti-British regulation like the European Arrest Warrant and the deluded open borders policy.

The unelected Brussels elite have demonstrated once again their total and utter incompetence at running a United States of Europe.

Stop this false negotiating nonsense and get us out – now!

BOB WYDELL
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bat walk has been organised

AN expert will give a bat walk around a heritage area on the Shropshire/Powys border.

Mike Worsfield will be giving the talk for adults around Llanymynech Heritage Area and identifying the different species of bats through echo location using bat detectors.

The Bat Conservation Society is the leading NGO solely devoted to the conservation of bats and the landscapes. As part of the society, the Shropshire Bat Group monitors and surveys bats particularly on this site in the Hoffman Limekilns which is prime habitat for bats.

The event will begin at the stable block on North Road, Llanymynech on Friday next week from 8pm to 11pm.

The cost is £3 and to book call 07458 087305.

AM arrested over images inquiry

A POLITICIAN has resigned from his position after being arrested by police investigating allegations of possession of indecent images.

Simon Thomas, a Plaid Cymru AM and former MP, who covers Mid Wales, stood down amid what the party described as "allegations of a serious offence."

Mr Thomas, who was MP for Ceredigion between 2000 and 2005, has deleted his Twitter page and personal website.

A Dyfed-Powys Police spokesperson said an "individual from Aberystwyth" had been released on bail for 28 days.

A statement from the force said an arrest had been made "on suspicion of possessing indecent images".

The assembly's Presiding Officer Elin Jones confirmed Mr Thomas's resignation in a statement last week.

Town store celebrates 40 years of success

Report by Sue Austin

WHEN Honeysuckle first opened in Oswestry 40 years ago it was certainly ahead of its time.

Specialising in vegetarian and organic products and, running as a workers' co-operative, the shop even offered zero packaging products.

Four decades on Honeysuckle Wholefoods Co-Operative in Church Street is celebrating its anniversary.

Gemma Syrett-Judd, from the store, said: "At a time when town centres are facing many challenges, for a specialist food retailer to have thrived for 40 years is quite an achievement."

"That it has been such a success in providing excellent food for the town and employment for so many people over the years is a cause for celebration."

The store opened in Church Street in 1978 from an idea to open a wholefood shop somewhere along the Welsh Borders.

"It was initially down to the hard work and ingenuity of Chas and Susy Nicholson that suitable premises were found at all."

"The shop was founded as a worker's co-operative along with their friends Thoby Miller and Buz Thomas with strong environmental, political and social ethics," Gemma said.

"Fast forward to 2018 and the shop is still going."

"We strive to stock fresh and artisan produce from local suppliers, where possible, and believe that a key part of



Honeysuckle first opened in Oswestry 40 years ago and is still going strong

our continued success is our status as a workers' co-operative.

"Each new member brings fresh ideas and energy, whereas the longer standing members bring experience

and knowledge developed over the years.

"Plastics are, quite rightly, cause for concern and we have returned to our origins and once more offer refills

on cleaning products and a selection of zero packaging products, including rice, tea and pulses.

"We stopped supplying plastic bags over a decade ago."

Area of land on Welsh beauty spot up for sale

NEARLY 40 acres of land at a Welsh beauty spot near Oswestry have come onto the market with a guide price of £100,000.

The site, which is situated below the medieval Castell Dinas Bran near Llangollen, is popular with walkers and tourists who want to take in the spectacular views from the top of the landmark hill.

Fisher German is marketing the 37-acre site and is hoping to attract interest from farmers, historical groups, conservationists and community groups.

Edward Clark, of Fisher German, said: "We very rarely see sites like this come on to the market."

"It is a spectacular piece of land offering spectacular views."

"It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest based within a well-known beauty spot, with an ancient monument sitting on top of it and is also situated close to the popular town of Llangollen."

The land also lies within the Clywdian Range and the Dee Valley area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The majority of the land currently provides rough grazing for sheep.

The lower slopes of the land feature open woodland.

It is subject to Open Access and there are public rights of way leading up to and around the summit.

This means the public will still be able to walk, sightsee, bird-watch, climb and run on the land.

The land has a guide price of offers in the region of £100,000.

Castell Dinas Bran overlooks the picturesque North Wales town of Llangollen.

Llangollen is well known for its International Musical Eisteddfod.

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SHROUDS OF THE SOMME

Departing Sunday 11 Nov

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Quote **JGRT**

Chance for public to nominate health hero

PATIENTS past and present are being encouraged to nominate their health heroes at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital for a special Patient Choice Award.

The award will be presented at the hospital's annual awards ceremony – the Celebration of Achievement Awards – at the Lion Quays Hotel in November.

There are 17 categories in total, recognising individuals and teams from all across the specialist orthopaedic hospital, but the Patient Choice Award is the only one where the public get to nominate and then vote for their winner.

People have until 5pm on Monday, September 3 to submit a nomination for the Patient Choice Award.

Nominations should be emailed to awards@rjah.nhs.uk under the subject line 'Patient Choice Award', bosses say.

Alternatively, they can be submitted in writing to: Patient Choice Award nomination, Trust Offices, The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, SY10 7AG

People should tell the hospital the name of the individual they would like to nominate and, where known, their job title or department.

Also include the reason they are being nominated, including as much detail as possible in order to help the nomination stand out at the shortlisting stage.

Up to four individuals will be selected to go forward as finalists in a public vote, with the eventual winner receiving their award at the awards evening on November 22.

People can also find more information on the trust website at www.rjah.nhs.uk/awards

Hospital says thanks to loyal members of staff

Report by Jonny Drury

A SPECIAL thanksgiving ceremony has been held at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital to celebrate 23 members of staff who have each dedicated 30 years to the National Health Service.

Between them the staff members have devoted a total of 690 years of service to the NHS.

To thank staff for their commitment, chief executive Mark Brandreth and Alistair Findlay, deputy chairman, presented them with their certificates and vouchers.

Back in 1988 when these staff members started their NHS careers, the £1 note had just ceased to be legal tender in England and Wales and staff were singing along to songs such as Kylie Minogue's 'I Should Be So Lucky' and 'Always on my Mind' by Pet Shop Boys.

Mr Brandreth said: "It's quite incredible to have 690 years of wisdom in one room, that's a really special thing to be able to say."

He added: "On behalf of the trust and the entire NHS family, I'd like to thank each and every one of these members of staff for their dedication to caring for our patients."

Jean Blakemore, clinical support worker on the hospital's children's ward, has spent her entire NHS career at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

She said: "The 30 years I've spent working at this hospital have been absolutely brilliant."

"It's a home from home working here, I work with a lovely team of people and our patients are absolutely wonderful."



Mark Brandreth with Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital staff who have completed 30 years in the NHS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Alert over open water swimming

FIRE crews in Mid Wales are urging people to be wary of swimming in open water.

In light of the recent warm and dry weather, Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue has issued a danger warning.

Figures released by the Royal Life Saving Society state that around 85 per cent of accidental drownings occur at open water sites.

Station manager Neil Evans, community safety, said: "The recent glorious weather has tempted many of us to venture for a swim in open waters."

"However, we urge people to only enter the water at lifeguarded sites and avoid swimming in lakes or rivers."

"Do not jump into the water from heights, the depth of the water changes and will be particularly low during periods of hot weather, as we are currently experiencing."

"The depth of water can be difficult to judge and may contain hidden rubbish and debris which can cause injuries and drowning," the firefighter added.

Working in care 'is a job for life'

A FIRM says caring has become a job for life due to the on-going growth of our ageing population.

According to official statistics, Wales has the fastest-growing proportion of older people in the UK – by 2039 there will be 44 per cent more people aged 65 and over compared to 2014.

Peter Angelides, managing director at Abacare, which provides care across Welshpool, said: "As a nation we have an ageing population and this means the care sector is rapidly expanding and as people will always need care in their old age, there will always be jobs available, meaning the care industry is one of very few sectors that can offer the real possibility of a job for life."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Action plan for industry

CABINET Secretary for energy, planning and rural affairs Lesley Griffiths has confirmed that work is already underway with the Food and Drink Wales Industry Board to develop a successor food and drink action plan.

Speaking at the National Assembly's Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee, the cabinet secretary confirmed that the new plan will build on the success of 'Towards Sustainable Growth', which ends in December 2019.

She urged everyone with an interest in the future of the sector to get involved and share their views on how the sector needs to develop.

Waterfall walk for the ramblers

THE Welshpool Ramblers' walk on Sunday will be a seven-mile circular walk from the Pistyll Rhoadr waterfall led by Geoff Read.

It will be a moderate walk with one steady climb of 240 metres.

All are welcome, but no are allowed dogs on the walk.

People can meet at 9am in the car park by the Welshpool Tourist Information Centre (SY21 7DD; grid ref. SJ 226 076), from where transport will normally be available.

Those wishing to go directly to the starting point should meet in the layby near the end of the road to the falls (SY10 0BZ; grid ref. SJ 075 295), ready for a 10am start.

For further information about the Welshpool Ramblers group and the walk this weekend people can call (01938) 571114.

Heritage group reveals its new £40,000 project

Report by Jonny Drury

AN association that has been established to aid the protection of Welshpool's heritage has launched its first project to bring an important part of the town's history back to life.

Welshpool Civic Pride is an unincorporated association with a management board that comprises nine members mixing town councillors with an assortment of historians and other individuals who bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the table.

And it has not been slow in announcing its first £40,000 project which will transform the former railway cattle docks across the road from Tesco. The bill will be covered by a grant from Land Fill Tax aid following a successful application.

"The site is located at the entrance to the town from the bypass and is a significant part of the Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway history," said a project spokesperson.

As well as restoring the platform, the cattle docks and the old railway hut for an educational facility, full accessibility paths will be installed to the site along with signage explaining its historical value.

The association has committed to using local businesses to carry out the work and once it is finished, the town council will take over the site management. Work is expected to start in the coming days.

AM takes up fight against scams



Russell George receives his SCAMBassador certificate

THE Friends Against Scams campaign, an initiative that aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams, has been supported by Montgomeryshire Assembly Member Russell George.

As a SCAMBassador, Mr George has joined the National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams Team and others to protect everyone from scams and the damage they cause.

The Mid Wales AM will now be able to work with members of the local community to educate and support those who may be vulnerable to scams.

Each year scams cause between £5bn and £10bn worth of detriment to UK consumers. In addition to the financial impact, scams can have a severe emotional and psychological impact on victims.

Mr George said: "Scams often target the most vulnerable people in society but the reality is that anyone can become a victim of scams."

"By signing up as a SCAMBassador, I pledge to help make Montgomeryshire a scam-free area."

Millionaire yet to come forward for winnings

A MILLIONAIRE from the region is unaware they have hit the lottery jackpot.

Friday the 13th proved extremely lucky for someone who bought their EuroMillions ticket in Powys.

The National Lottery says one of the two Millionaire Maker winning tickets for the July 13 draw still hasn't come forward. The winning ticket was bought in Mid Wales, it says.

In every draw EuroMillions Millionaire Maker guarantees to create two millionaires. Andy Carter, senior winners' advisor at The National Lottery, said the search is now on to find the owner of the winning ticket.

"We're desperate to find this mystery ticket-holder and unite them with their winnings, this amazing prize could really make a huge difference to somebody's life," he said.

"For every EuroMillions line played, UK players automatically receive a EuroMillions Millionaire Maker code printed on their ticket. The winning code on 13 July 2018 for this prize was VLNJ 92060 and the lucky ticket-holder has until January 9, 2019 to claim their prize."

Mr Carter said that anyone not in possession of their ticket, for whatever reason, but who believes they have a genuine claim can still make a claim in writing to Camelot, but it must be within 30 days of the draw.

"If no-one comes forward with the winning ticket before the prize claim deadline, then the prize money, plus all the interest it has generated, will go to help National Lottery-funded projects across the UK," he said.

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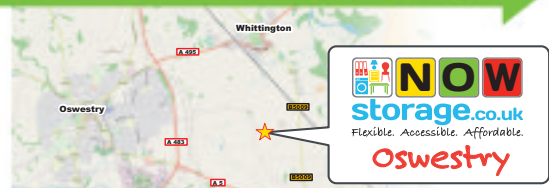
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SIGNATURE	CLASSIC	WORLD
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£6	£6	£6
Roast squash & beet salad, pine nut, feta crumb (v/gf)	Salt & pepper squid, burnt shallot mayo (gf)	Duck, port & black truffle arancini, cherry & port gel
£5	£6	£7
Pan seared scallops, crispy pancetta, pea purée (gf)	Soup of the day, fresh bread (ve*/gf*)	Fillet of beef carpaccio, rocket, parmesan (gf)
£10	£4	£10
Goat's cheesecake, walnut, onion marmalade (v)	Homemade nachos, cheese, guacamole, salsa	Smoked salmon, avocado, chilli & soy, tempura (gf*)
£6	£6	£8

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Red wine	Port & stilton	Bearnaise	Peppercorn	Sauce gribiche	

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SIGNATURE	CLASSIC	WORLD
Pork belly, butter bean, chorizo & tomato cassoulet (gf)	Beer battered cod, triple cooked chips, pea purée	Linguine amatriciana, chorizo, pickled red onion, tomato, parmesan
£14	£10	£12
Roasted cauliflower steak, Moroccan cous cous, pomegranate salsa (ve)	Townhouse 8oz burger, bacon, cheese, fries, bbq, salad	Fillet of red snapper, coconut lentil curry, greens (gf)
£9	£12	£12
Seabass, crushed new, spinach, lemon & caper oil, grilled asparagus (gf)	10hr brisket beef hash, poached egg, brown sauce (gf*)	Coq au vin, roast onion mash, pot vegetables (gf)
£14	£10	£14
Grilled chicken salad, crispy egg, parmesan, aioli (gf*)	Spring vegetable risotto, parmesan crumb (v*/gf)	King prawn linguine, tomato, chilli
£9	£10	£12

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12 Money launder man ordered to repay £106,000

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, August 2, 2018

A SHROPSHIRE man jailed for handling stolen goods for a gang of criminals has been ordered to pay nearly £107,000 or face going back to prison in a proceeds of crime ruling.

Mark Bowen, 49, of Western Avenue, Whittington, near Oswestry, admitted handling stolen goods and money laundering the proceeds of the gang who targeted Asian gold and jewellery.

He was jailed for 27 months in September 2016. Sarah Badrawy, prosecuting, told Mold Crown Court that goods seized under a Proceeds of Crime application had been valued at £13,608 and were ready to be sold at an auction house.

Judge Rhys Rowlands made a confiscation order and told Bowen to pay the sum of £106,783 within three months or risk another term in prison for defaulting.

Bowen sold on some of the items that were taken by the gang of burglars who targeted homes across the region.

During the police investigation mobile telephones were recovered from some of the burglars which contained a number attributed to him and analysis showed Bowen was in contact with two of them during the conspiracy. But he said he only handled some of the proceeds of the gang's crimes and that he did not know the extent of the criminality that was going on.

Programme gives advice to business

SUPPORTING business and social enterprise in Weston Rhyn, St Martins and Gobowen is the theme of 'Three Parishes Means Business', an initiative from the Big Lottery funded Three Parishes Big Local programme.

In the seven months since its launch, Three Parishes Means Business has funded free business training courses and free 1-2-1 advice sessions with a business mentor, and has launched a small grants programme for local business and social enterprise. Courses in data protection, social media for business, marketing and new business start-up training have taken place, with more courses planned for the coming months.

Public meetings took place in April to give local businesses and social enterprises a chance to have their say about how this Big Lottery funded programme can best support them. Feedback given at these public meetings has meant that Three Parishes Big Local has added a number of things to the Three Parishes Means Business plan, including co-working spaces, a business directory and local pop-up shops or markets. Bookings are now being taken for the next day of free 1-2-1 advice sessions with a business mentor, taking place on October 11. Anyone wishing to book one of these sessions, or find out more about any aspect of Three Parishes Means Business should contact the Three Parishes Big Local co-ordinator Bridget Laraway on (01691) 656882.

Funding boost for Crucial Crew

SHREWSBURY and Oswestry Crucial Crew has received £5,000 to fund a safety education event giving practical advice to 1,500 students in their final year of primary school.

The donation was provided by the Santander Foundation, which offers Discovery Grants to UK registered charities for projects that help disadvantaged people in local communities.

The organisation provided a two-week safety education event for 11-year-olds from more than 50 primary schools in Shropshire.

The aim of this education is to teach young people essential life skills and give them the experience and knowledge to deal with various situations as they transition to secondary school.

A number of scenarios are discussed, including about drugs and alcohol, and these were delivered by a number of organisations and services including the local police, fire service, Shropshire Council, St John's Ambulance and RNLI, the National Farmers' Union, British Transport Police, Veolia and Western Power Distribution.

Shropshire Council: Why the money was granted and the action that is being taken now

SHROPSHIRE Council has released a statement over the circumstances of a £80,000 grant made to Oswestry's The New Saints FC following concerns about the process.

The statement says: "The Market Town Re-vitalisation Programme (MTRP) was a grant fund of £3.5 million, made available by Shropshire Council, designed to support and stimulate economic growth in Shropshire market towns. The use of the grant was determined locally, with Shropshire councillors working with town and parish councils and local business organisations to ensure that a local, grass roots, understanding of need would be properly considered and so maximise the best use of funds.

"The New Saints (TNS) was awarded a grant of £80,000 from the MTRP. This was used to

Report by Mark Andrews

install a new stand to provide an additional 500 seats to comply with UEFA infrastructure criteria and allow the club to attract additional events, delivering economic and community benefit.

"One condition of the grant funding agreement with TNS was that they were required to deliver a grant of £16,000 each year, over a five-year period. Although this has happened in part, the onward grant payments have not yet been made in full and therefore TNS's compliance with the terms of the grant is in dispute.

"Monies equal to the amount of the grant received by TNS should have been paid out as

grants within the Oswestry area, the criteria for which was to be approved by the Oswestry Economic Board (a partnership between Oswestry Town Council, Shropshire Council and local business), thereby multiplying the benefits of the initial grant. Grants totalling the £80,000 received should have been paid by January 2017. The Oswestry Joint Economic Board ceased to operate in July 2013, before a set of ongoing criteria for the purposes of the TNS grants was adopted, although a single project had been approved for a grant of £10,000. (Please note the first grant was due January 2013 when the Oswestry Joint Economic Board was still operating. The audit was inconclusive as to why the funds had not been recovered earlier). The council took steps to recover funds

within the terms of the grant agreement, but this was not properly followed through. Some of this can be explained by multiple handover of the project due to officers leaving the council, but overall management of this has not been satisfactory and does not meet our usual and expected standards. However, such internal matters do not affect the council's rights to enforce the terms of the grant agreement. The chief executive of Shropshire Council has taken appropriate action. However, a number of officers involved with the project have left the council and it is unfair to determine whether any failure is attributable to them.

"The council is now seeking to recover funds from TNS in accordance with the terms of the grant agreement."

Internal audit report reveals details of £80k cash row

SPECIAL REPORT by Mark Andrews

THE circumstances surrounding Shropshire Council's controversial £80,000 grant to an Oswestry football club have been laid bare.

The Chronicle's sister paper the Shropshire Star has detailed the contents of the council's internal audit report into the matter.

The report was commissioned after concerns were raised about the circumstances of the £80,000 grant to The New Saints FC in 2012.

The payment, towards the cost of a new stand at the club, was made on condition it repaid the money over a five-year period in the form of annual £16,000 grants through the Oswestry Economic Board. But only one grant, of £10,000, was made.

The internal audit report reveals Shropshire Council failed to ensure repayment grants were being made, due to staff turnover and weak management structures.

The report says it is not known "whether this was by design or accident".

Missed

The report says the council missed at least eight opportunities to claw back the money after the club failed to make the payments and says crucial records were lost when IT staff inadvertently wiped computer files.

The report found the council did not seek evidence that match-funding requirements had been met and says Shropshire Council is still not aware of how – or why – the body it jointly set up to distribute the grants went dormant.

The audit report reveals police were called to investigate allegations of fraud following a tip-off. No wrong-doing was found to have taken place.

The grant to TNS was made on the basis it would bring 20,000 extra visitors to the town in 12 months.

Another condition was that it would lead to 20 extra events and would create at least six new jobs.

But the council failed to establish whether these conditions were met.

Shropshire Council has issued a statement admitting its management of the project "has not been satisfactory", and said it was seeking to recover the money from the club.

However, TNS chairman Mike Harris accused the authority of damaging his club's reputation with its statement, and has demanded an apology.

Benefits of deal included new jobs and events



The deal with The New Saints was made to allow jobs to be created and new events to be held, according to Shropshire Council's audit report

AN internal audit report on a £80,000 grant to The New Saints FC from Shropshire Council has outlined the planned benefits from the arrangement.

The grant went towards the cost of building an extra stand at the Park Hall stadium near Oswestry.

According to the council's internal audit report, the total cost of the project was £185,000, with new build costs of £80,000, plant and equipment £100,000 and professional fees of £5,000. "TNS would provide match funding of £105,000 against the £80,000 awarded," the report states.

The grant was awarded on May 28, 2012, with various conditions.

Conditions included it would create six full-time jobs within 12 months, it would deliver a minimum of 20 additional events within the first year and it would bring 20,000 extra visitors to the town over the same period of time. It was the responsibility of the club to provide evidence the latter two conditions had been met.

Conditions also included that the club would provide grants of £16,000 per annum for a pe-

riod of five years for purposes to be agreed by the Oswestry Economic Board, with the first payment being made on January 1, 2013.

The report reveals that the stand was installed but the council did not confirm any of the first three conditions had been met.

The audit report, which was issued in April this year, states: "Officers confirmed that there is no project closure report to demonstrate delivery of the outcomes; their interpretation is that with the delivery of the stand these outcomes were a natural result.

"It would be expected that a project closure report would have been completed and the absence of one represents a risk."

The grant was given to the club in two payments; £63,400 on June 13, 2012, and the remaining £16,600 on July 4 that year, with a proviso that the council would be able to claw back some or all of the money if the club failed to meet the conditions.

Of the £80,000 due to be paid out by the club, only £10,000 was actually delivered.

The football club had been due to make its first grant in January 2013, and the second a year later, but no payments were made.

In October 2014, Shropshire Council issued an invoice for £10,000 in relation to the unpaid grants.

The deadline for the club to make its third grant to Oswestry Town Council, in January 2015, also passed without the payment.

However, the club did refund the £10,000 that Shropshire Council had demanded the previous year – with a payment of £4,000 made on July 17, and a further £6,000 on November 29, meaning that the invoice was settled some 13 months after it was issued.

This money was paid to Oswestry Town Council, which gave a grant to Start Up Oswestry – a club to encourage young entrepreneurs – as agreed by the joint board.

However, the report reveals that no further repayments were made after this time.

It said neither the process for agreeing how the grant would be repaid, nor the procedure for recovering unpaid money, was rigorous enough.

"It is not possible to say whether this was by design or accident given the time lapsed and the number of senior officers now not available to explore this with," it said.

Call for ex-officers to share recollections of grant decision

SHROPSHIRE Council's opposition Liberal Democrat group has called for former council officers and councillors to share their recollection of events surrounding a controversial £80,000 grant from the local authority to Oswestry's The New Saints FC.

Earlier this month the group's leader, Councillor Roger Evans, said he had been threatened with police action if any confidential details were leaked. Councillor Evans said he was glad the details were finally out after the contents of an internal audit report were made public.

"I'm concerned there is public money outstanding after six years," he said. "I will be asking performance scrutiny to look into this, and to invite ex-councillors and ex-officers to share their recollection of events, to fill in the gaps."

In December last year police were called in to investigate allegations of fraud, but no action was taken.

Spokeswoman Eleanor Harris said: "A proportionate investigation was carried out and it was established no criminal offences had been committed."

According to the audit report the £80,000 was to be paid back by the club through grants to the Oswestry Economic Board. What happened to the Oswestry Economic Board, which was supposed to allocate the grants, is unclear.

The group was set up as a joint venture between Shropshire Council and Oswestry Town Council "to develop and promote the economic prosperity of Oswestry through a shared vision between the respective councils".

A review of the board's minutes showed that it met on a regular basis until July 9, 2013.

"It is unclear why the board went dormant at this stage," the report said.

It said a discussion with Oswestry Town Council in March this year confirmed that meetings were administered by the town council, but the agenda was set and meetings called jointly by the two authorities. David Preston, clerk to Oswestry Town Council, said this week: "The town council has not received a copy of this report yet, but it has been made clear by our solicitor that this is an ongoing matter between Shropshire Council and TNS."

Kind builder comes to aid of £4,000 scam victim

A KIND builder has fixed a porch roof for a woman who was conned out of £4,000 by rogue builders.

Val Cotton who lives in Albert Road in Oswestry was approached by two men who said she needed work doing to the outside of her home.

They showed her rotten wood, and they said she needed her porch roof fixing.

She was taken in by the men, and handed them £4,000 for supplies.

However an hour later when they never returned she realised she had been the victim of a scam.

Local builder Carl Pierpoint heard about the scam and agreed to do the work for free, with a builders merchants from the town donating the supplies for free. Val was delighted that she had been saved, after she had been hoodwinked by the scammers.

She said: "I can't thank them enough for what they have done."

"Carl has come and done the work and I am so delighted and so grateful to him and the builder's merchants."

"The work is now fixed, and I was so pleased they helped after what has happened."

She now wants her story to be used as a warning to other unsuspecting residents about scammers turning up on their doorstep.

The incident was reported, but it came to nothing.

Val said she feels stupid after being taken in by the men, and putting trust in them to give the money over to get the supplies for the work.

She added: "They said they needed the money as their boss was going on holiday that weekend, and I feel so stupid for believing them. They took me in really and I shouldn't have let them."

Councillor says he was not asleep at meeting

Report by Jonny Drury

A COUNCILLOR who has been accused of sleeping in a council meeting has insisted he closes his eyes as a technique to concentrate.

Powys County Councillor Pete Roberts has been subject to scrutiny after a Skype video of him in an informal council meeting was published online by Conservative councillor Mark Barnes.

After the video surfaced, and after a number of online comments, he said he wanted to set the record straight.

He said: "A few years ago I found a way of concentrating and that was by closing my eyes."

"It managed to help me shut out all other distractions and concentrate on what had been said."

"This is what I was doing in this video, and not sleeping as it has been claimed."

He believes someone has taken personal offence at him, and it could be seen as cyber bullying. The video has since been taken down. Cllr Roberts and group leader James Gibson-Watt are considering all options including a complaint to the public services ombudsman for Wales.

He believes it should involve whoever passed on the video to Cllr Barnes.

He added: "This has had an impact on me and could be cyber bullying."

"We are considering what to do with it, and it could be a complaint to the ombudsman or Information Commissioner. It could also be a breach of the council's social media policy, which has just been put into force."

Mountain blaze causes disruption



Crews have been busy tackling fires on Llantysilio Mountain

A MAJOR route across Wales was still partially closed earlier this week because of the mountain fire above Llangollen.

Fire crews have controlled the majority of the deep seated fires on Llantysilio Mountain but were this week still maintaining a presence there to ensure they don't spark into life again.

A section of the A542 Horse-shoe Pass remained closed on Monday night this week.

Firefighters have spent hundreds of hours battling the fire that has spread across the moorland.

The mother of firefighter Clare Dulson from Chirk Fire Station near Oswestry revealed that her daughter spent her 40th birthday on the mountain with her crew.

Jayne Dulson said: "She spent her birthday evening trying to contain some of the most challenging conditions that they have had so far and I was worried sick about her."

"The firefighters have spent so long up there, whilst trying to juggle a day job, families and no sleep."

"They deserve our praise."

Individuals and businesses have been donating snacks and energy drinks for the firefighters.

Plenty of fun for all the family

ATTRACTIONS including helicopter rides, acrobatic shows and delicious food stalls are set to arrive in Churchstoke this weekend, as part of a fun day organised by The Midcounties Co-operative in aid of local charities.

The Churchstoke Fun Day, now in its 23rd year, offers activities for all ages, ranging from a vintage car show, arts and crafts to fairground rides and magic shows.

This year, residents will also be able to witness galloping acrobatics where gymnasts complete Olympic worthy feats while horse riding, as well as the opportunity to take part in an underwater virtual reality experience.

Children will have the chance to meet their favourite cartoon characters with an appearance from Chase & Marshall from Paw Patrol and Cat Boy from PJ Masks. The event will help raise funds for local charities and community groups including Hope House Hospice, a children's hospice in Morda near Oswestry.

Last year the day raised £20,000 for local causes and attracted more than 6,000 people.

Genealogy put in the spotlight

A NUMBER of members of the Welshpool and District University of the Third Age3A met recently when Sonia St John spoke on using DNA as a genealogy tool.

She explained that this was a recent development in genealogy tracking it by bloodlines rather than family history. The next meeting is on Tuesday which will be an open day for members of the club and for the general public to go along between 10.30am and midday. Many of the activities of the groups will arrange displays to explain what they do and will be available to answer questions.

Take that vital first step by attending university open day

Commercial feature

Wrexham Glyndwr University will hold an open day on August 18, designed to give prospective students a taste of what it's like to study at Wrexham Glyndwr and a chance to meet with course staff and current students.

The university has a wide range of courses available at foundation, undergraduate and post graduate level, many of which can also be studied part-time. More than half of current Wrexham Glyndwr students study part-time and includes a wide-variety of age groups.

Ben Edwards, a student on Wrexham Glyndwr's BA (Hons) illustration, graphic novels and children's publishing course, said: "It has been fantastic coming to Wrexham Glyndwr. I wasn't always an illustrator – I used to work full time."

Confidence

"When I left school, I didn't think I was good enough to do art. I worked in customer service jobs, cleaning jobs and things like that – I was happy enough, but I felt like something was missing."

"Then, I started doing my own children's book for fun, and that picked up a little bit of interest so I looked into doing more. That's when I came to Wrexham Glyndwr to do the course here – and they have helped me so much! It's about taking that leap of faith – and coming to university gave me that confidence."

A number of talks will take place at the open day including Social Media



See the campus and learn about courses at Wrexham Glyndwr's open day

for Creatives and People, Pills and Places – The Bigger Picture of Health & Illness. There will also be virtual reality and augmented reality demos and challenges plus the opportunity to tour the Regent Street campus which houses the School of Creative Arts.

Students who are planning to study at Wrexham Glyndwr in September 2018 on a full-time undergraduate engineering degree may be eligible to receive a bursary which offers free student village accommodation for one academic year. Visit the Wrexham Glyndwr University to find out more about our B Eng (Hons) automotive engineering course and all other

courses available.

Andy Phillips, admissions manager at Wrexham Glyndwr University, said: "We still have availability across a wide range of subject areas for September so it's not too late for anyone who is waiting on exam results or who is unsure if university is for them, to come and find out."

"The admissions team will be on hand throughout the day to answer any questions about the admissions process and advise on entry requirements."

For more information or to book to attend the open day visit wgu.ac.uk/818p

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Warning over the misuse of waste sites

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, August 2, 2018

DUMPING waste at recycling points across Shropshire may put them at risk of closing, according to one councillor.

Councillor Joyce Barrow said members of the public had abandoned mattresses and furniture at the Bring Bank on Station Road in Oswestry, opposite the Morrisons supermarket. The issue has led to Shropshire Council reviewing the site.

She said it is imperative that people only recycle what is permitted at the sites.

Councillor Barrow, the portfolio holder for communities, waste and regulatory services, continued: "Discussions are on-going about the Morrisons site, but people are dumping cardboard there that cannot be recycled from there, leaving stuff at the side at the side of the bins, we've even found mattresses and furniture there. It is being looked into to try to find the best way to deal with it."

Councillor Barrow said she would urge people to act responsibly or risk losing the site altogether. She continued: "I would urge people to use the banks correctly. I must stress no decision has been made about removing the recycling point, but the whole issue is being looked at."

To find out what items can be recycled at bring banks, recycling centres and in household recycling, visit shropshire.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish

Businesses are asked for their views

MID Wales businesses are being asked for their views on the future of the region's economy and what can be done to boost growth over the next 15 years.

Transport, digital connectivity and skills are among the topics.

The Growing Mid Wales Partnership, an amalgamation of public, private and voluntary sector organisations set up to strengthen the region's economy, has commissioned consultants to help develop an economic action plan for Mid Wales.

This follows from the publication of the Welsh Government's new economic action plan and the announcement of a potential Growth Deal for Mid Wales in the autumn budget.

Chair of the Growing Mid Wales Partnership Councillor Rosemarie Harris, leader of Powys County Council, said: "A Growth Deal for Mid Wales is a major opportunity for the region that will require the full support and participation of the private sector. Proposals must be transformational focusing on innovation and unlocking the barriers to growth for local businesses and new investment."

"The voice of the Mid Wales business community is vital in informing the economic plan. We are very keen to speak to a wide cross section of business leaders within the region that could help shape and influence future growth."

Businesses and organisations can take part in the online survey at www.survey-monkey.co.uk/r/6NTG8Z7

Bins will be put outside school

DOG poo bins are being put up outside Llanfyllin's secondary school, to encourage dog walkers not to leave the mess close to the school.

Dogs are already banned from being walked around the school grounds because of the health risks associated with dog mess.

Money for the special bins will come from Llanfyllin Town Council, it has been announced.

At their July meeting, town councillors welcomed members of the Llanfyllin High School Eco Committee and their teacher Helen Lloyd.

The students told the council about their work in keeping the school tidy and promoting environmentally friendly policies and activities.

The Mayor of Llanfyllin Cllr Simon Baynes, said: "The students gave an excellent presentation."

The mayor added: "People should not walk their dogs on the school grounds because leaving dog poo is a major problem and health hazard, particularly when students are playing sport."

Level of support from authority for primary school criticised as four governors stand down

Report by Sue Austin

SUPPORT for a new primary school in Welshpool from the local authority has been "woefully lacking", one of the four governors that have stood down from their posts has said.

Mike Gregory said there had been no project plan for the new Church in Wales primary school in Welshpool and that governors had been left frustrated and not in control. He has now resigned along with the chairman of governors, Brendan McWhinnie, vice chairman Alison Bowen and Derek Simms. Mr McWhinnie stressed that his reason for standing down was over the governors failing to agree on whether prayers should remain on the agenda of governor meetings or whether those who want to take part did so five minutes before the start. However he also said that it was imperative

that Powys County Council give robust support to its schools' governing bodies.

"The school has lost some very experienced governors," he said. He and other governors have praised the headteacher and staff at the primary school. Mr Gregory said one of his reasons for resigning was that, like the governors, the staff had been left in the dark about the future of the new school. "Having previously been a governor at Oldford Nursery & Infants School and latterly on the temporary and more recently the full Welshpool Church of Wales Primary School governing body, it saddens me greatly to see so many competent, caring

and dedicated governors resigning from post; though I am not surprised," he said.

"While all governors, without exception, on the new governing body had one clear aim from the outset; 'to obtain the best possible levels of education and resources for the young children of Welshpool', the support from officers at Powys County Council in helping achieving this goal has been woefully lacking."

"From the outset there was no project plan despite governors requesting on numerous occasions. When we were finally given sight of one, it was never updated. This meant there were no clear operational strategy to take required actions forward. From the school closure processes, to staff appointments and budget planning, everything was left to the last

minute. Actions request of officers were not forthcoming and governors were left frustrated and not feeling in control of the processes, but merely being used to rubber stamp actions when required."

Council spokesman Lee Evans said: "Powys County Council has worked closely with, and continues to work closely with, the governors of Welshpool Church in Wales Primary School on the development of the new school building."

"Many governors took the opportunity to visit similar new builds along with the council as part of the design process and the designs were fully discussed with the governing body. The governors formally approved the designs at their February meeting and we will continue to work with them as the school is built."

Traveller family is set to move off former school site

Report by Andrew Morris

A TRAVELLER family will be moved from St Martins near Oswestry within the next six months.

Councillor Steve Davenport revealed that work is ongoing to find a permanent home for the Stokes family, with Oswestry being the preferred choice.

They are currently based at the former Ifton Heath Primary School site.

But Councillor Davenport said plans are due to be submitted imminently to develop that site to provide homes and retail space.

It means Shropshire Council will have to provide the Stokes family with a new home.

He said: "This family are using the site at the moment and have had no problems at all."

"I have no problem with them staying there until we need the land back."

"It is looking likely they will move back to Oswestry and that that is going to happen within the next six months."

Extension

In the meantime, the Stokes family will remain in St Martins after members of the North Shropshire Planning Committee approved a 12-month extension to their tenure.

Concerns were raised by some members as it is the third time such an extension has been requested.

Councillor Gerald Dakin said: "This has been going on for quite some time. For the people living there it must be like living in a goldfish bowl. It can't be easy and even if local people are happy with them living there now, they won't be happy for them to be there forever."

"It is time we did something about it and it is up to us as Shropshire Council to do something."

Meanwhile, Councillor Vince Hunt welcomed the possible return of the Stokes family to Oswestry. He added: "I have no issues with allowing this extension."

"They are a local family, they are well known and there hasn't been any objections from anyone with regards to where they are."

"I look forward to seeing an application for this site within the next 12 months and for a permanent solution to be found for this family."

The Stokes family had lived for many years on Oswestry's former Smithfield Livestock Market site but were moved to St Martins in 2015 to make way for a failed multi-million pound leisure complex.

It's bin a good day at the office for Sophie



Sophie Hoggarty, 24, is Oswestry's first bin woman – and is urging more women to give the job a go

IT'S been another good day at the "office" for Sophie Hoggarty.

For the 24-year-old's office is the refuse lorry that she drives around Oswestry. Sophie has become the town's first bin lady – and is urging more women looking for a job to give it a try. The only woman in the team of bin men covering the town and surrounding villages, Sophie joined refuse and recycling company Veolia about 18 months ago. After working as a

loader on one of the lorries she recently passed her Class 2 driving test and is now one of the drivers. Being a bin woman is not something she dreamt of doing at school, she admitted.

"I went to college to study patisserie baking. Then I moved to France to work," she said.

"When I returned to Britain I worked in an office for a while then signed up with an agency. They asked me if I wanted to go to Veolia and I thought, why not. I haven't looked

back since." She said the job could be physical with loaders sometimes clocking up 15 miles walking in a day.

"We drivers will often help out," she said.

"But I would much rather be working on the bins, out in the fresh air, than in an office."

Sophie said being a woman in a traditional man's world was interesting.

She said: "Yes, there is a lot of banter, but I am happy to give that banter back."

Libraries get healthy vending machines for readers

A NEW initiative to make it easier for Shropshire library visitors to eat healthier has been launched.

Vending machines packed with healthy snacks and drinks made with 100 per cent natural ingredients have been unveiled at libraries in Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Ludlow.

The idea has come from Food4Health, from Shropshire Council's Help2Change team.

Kevin Lewis, from the Help2Change team, said it is hoped the initiative will improve the health of the public.

He continued: "Increasingly, people struggle in the environments they are in to access healthy snacks."

"People are tempted by chocolate bars, by crisps, by fizzy drinks full of sugar."

Buck

"We are trying to buck that trend and give people access to a healthy range of snacks through vending machines through public buildings."

It is hoped similar vending machines can be

rolled out at other libraries, as well as schools, leisure centres and hospitals.

There are also plans for the food items to be made available to a small range of retailers.

Mr Lewis added it could become self-financing.

He said: "We want to see if we can disrupt the market place and see if we can make it evident that there is a commercial market for this."

"We want to test out whether we can develop a franchise opportunity for healthy foods to be offered on this basis in vending machines to

work places, hospitals and public buildings, and that people will actually purchase the food."

Meanwhile, Powys County Council has launched its own health plan.

It is called the Towards 2040 county wellbeing plan. Leader of Powys County Council and chair of the Powys Public Service Board, Councillor Rosemarie Harris said: "Towards 2040 Powys wellbeing plan is all about making sure that everyone in Powys is fulfilled in all aspects of their lives; so that they feel safe, happy and contented in their environment."



Newtown is a picturesque town and a great place to visit at any time of the year

Plenty for everyone

The picturesque town of Newtown is a great place to visit and to shop.

Lying on the River Severn, within the historic boundaries of Montgomeryshire, the town, the largest in Powys, has a fascinating history and over the years has been transformed into a centre for retail with a mixture of national chains and local independent traders.

Commercial feature

The town has a proud history and is best known as the birthplace of social reformer Robert Owen in 1771.

Newtown is also famous for the birth of the mail order retail business which local entrepreneur Pryce Jones started in the mid nineteenth century

by despatching goods to Britain and Europe from Newtown.

There is plenty of things to see and do in the busy and vibrant town of Newtown.

Newtown is home to the Textile Museum, the Oriel Davies Gallery and entertainment venue Hafren.

The town also has sports facilities and an attractive town centre.



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16 Huge interest in ambulance service career

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, August 2, 2018

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service says its latest recruitment drive to find the life-savers of the future has captured the interest of almost 20,000 people.

Since the job opportunity opened on NHS Jobs two weeks ago, 19,766 people viewed the vacancy.

The deadline for applications has now passed and the trust's recruitment team are starting to process 655 applications.

A further 714 applications were rejected due to people not meeting the criteria.

The trust's recruitment manager, Louise Harris, said: "After the success of our social media presence and TV programmes like Ambulance, 999 On The Frontline and Inside the Ambulance all featuring our staff here in the West Midlands, the profession has never been so high profile and well respected.

"Our social media channels on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram (@officialWMAS) have seen loads of people asking for more information about the vacancy and it's quite unbelievable how many people have taken the time to look at the role of student paramedic.

"As an 'earn as you learn' scheme, it opens up possibilities to a wide range of people in the region and beyond.

"We have seen people apply from all different communities and ages."

Call is made for clarity on diesel cars

THE future of diesel cars and debit card charges were among the issues highlighted to an MP when he visited a used-car auction firm.

North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson was given an insight into the industry during a visit to Aston Barclay Car Auctions at Prees Heath, near Whitchurch. Mr Paterson was told consumers needed to be better informed about the future of diesel cars, which have been hit by tax hikes and bans.

He was also told the industry had been affected by the EU Payment Services Directive, which has seen the debit card charge on cars rise. The National Association of Motor Auctions member also unveiled its expansion plans, which will see it double the size of its site and create new jobs.

Following the visit, Mr Paterson said: "It was fascinating. It is a great local business selling 13,000 cars per year and employing 25 people, with plans to double sales and employment. A pity they have been hit by the EU Payment Services Directive so the debit card charge on a £20,000 car has gone from 50p to £40."

Boss Neil Hodson said: "The business went through a management buyout 12 months ago and we are working on the redevelopment of this site which will create new jobs.

"We inspect every vehicle. It is a thorough process and a lot of work goes into preparing the cars. I think a lot of people don't know whether to buy diesel, petrol or electric. Some clarity would be good."

Airline's £1m to boost tourism

QATAR Airways will receive £1m from the Welsh Government to market Wales as a destination around the world.

The airline is running a Cardiff to Doha route which the government hopes will boost Wales as a destination.

It initially refused to reveal the cost, claiming it would compromise the economic interests of the country. The airline will also contribute £1m to the two-year partnership.

This has an option to extend for a further two years for another £1m each.

First Minister Carwyn Jones previously described the deal as a "huge boost" for Wales.

Opposition politicians had criticised it for not releasing the information, but the Welsh Government had said it strived "to be as open and transparent as possible".

The Welsh Government said it had made a payment to the airline in the financial year ending March 2018, and another payment will be made in the second year.

The service was launched in May and started running daily from the middle of June.

Councillors throughout county voice their concerns over planned cost-cutting proposal

THE Shropshire Council community service centre in Oswestry could see its hours more than halved.

The hub in the town's library is currently open five days a week but may only open on Wednesdays and Fridays in future.

Shropshire Council is consulting on proposed changes to its face-to-face services.

Oswestry Mayor Sandy Best said: "I am extremely concerned, for both those who use the service and the staff.

"The cut to just two days a week is ludicrous. "When the community hub opened at Oswestry library there was a great deal said about how important it was.

"My worry is not only for a large group of older people who do not use the internet but

Report by Lucy Todman

also people for whom English is not their first language.

"They appreciate being able to speak to someone face-to-face."

Steve Charmley, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for corporate and commercial support, said: "Whilst we recognise that some residents need local access to services, we have to find ways of achieving this on much-reduced budgets. In preparation for the consultation we have looked critically and sensibly at the times we have staff present in our offices.

"We need to make sure that we provide value for money, whilst continuing to be fair to our

customers. Currently, these are simply proposals and no decisions have yet been made. We'd really like to hear your thoughts."

The consultation will close on August 24. During this time there will be information at each of the council's customer service points explaining the proposals and inviting people to comment.

Malcolm Pate, who represents Albrighton on Shropshire Council, said a loss of facility is always a bad thing – unless the facility is no longer cost effective to run.

"I'd be against any loss of facilities, and if the service is being used it's not the correct thing to do to close services," he said.

"If they're badly used they're not cost effective to run and we need to save money."

Roy Aldcroft, who represents Market Drayton East on Shropshire Council and who also sits on Market Drayton Town Council, said: "We are a growing town. The service point is one of the main accesses for all the people who don't use computers or who prefer face to face discussions over phone calls or the internet.

"It's always a difficult choice when you are running low on funds." Shifnal Councillor Kevin Turley, said: "My personal opinion is that the more people who can get this kind of service the better. But from the council's perspective they're constantly dealing with these budget cuts so I think us councillors will have to step up." For more information about the consultation visit shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/customer-service-opening-hours-review-2018/

Customer service offices face reduced hours and closure

Report by Lucy Todman

NINE Shropshire Council customer service offices will close and a further six will see their hours cut under plans to save money.

"Financial challenges" have been blamed for the proposed closure of the offices across the county, with council bosses opening a consultation seeking views on the proposals.

In the last four years the number of people visiting the offices has fallen by more than 50 per cent, from 70,615 in April 2014 to 33,079 in April 2018. Some of the smaller offices have seen no customers at all some months.

The council is proposing to reduce the days on which staff at its main offices in Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Whitchurch, Market Drayton, Ludlow and Bridgnorth are available to directly support customers.

Instead of being open up to five days a week, the Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Shrewsbury and Oswestry offices would be open just two days a week and Whitchurch and Market Drayton, would be open one day a week.

Completely

The offices in Albrighton, Bishop's Castle, Broseley, Church Stretton Town Council and Church Stretton Health and Well-being Centre, Cleobury Country, Ellesmere, Shifnal and Wem would close completely.

Currently, visitors to customer service offices are able to get advice on housing matters, buy parking permits, renew disabled badges and apply for concessionary travel permits.

If the closures come in to force, people will still be able to speak to a customer services adviser by telephoning the Customer Service Centre.

The consultation paper says: "In light of the financial challenges we face due to government spending reductions and rising costs, we have to find ways of making savings across all council services.

"We are consulting on what we feel is the best compromise between continuing to provide a service and staying within our budget. In reaching this recommendation we have looked at the busiest days at each site and also the staff resource we have available to meet these needs.

"In our six main offices we will keep the self-serve facilities so that customers can still speak to an adviser throughout the day and at times when customer service staff are not on site."

The consultation runs until August 24.

New convention is set to go down a storm



Characters from Star Wars publicising the new comic convention which arrives at the weekend

A NEW convention is storming its way into Shropshire to the delight of film, comic and gaming fans.

Ozon.uk will open its doors at Oswestry Leisure Centre on Saturday and Sunday bringing big names from all three worlds to the town.

But Star Wars stormtroopers arrived in the town early to help publicise the event.

Visitors can meet stars such as Pingu, Jonny Bravo, Scooby Doo and Shaggy, all wrapped up

in one person, voice actor, Mark Silk. Mark can also be heard in Star Wars, Chicken Run and the new Thunderbirds series. Quinton Flynn, the voice of Timon from Timon and Pumba, who also appeared in Aladdin, will also be at the event. One of the organisers, Oswestry businessman Martin Portlock, said comic conventions had evolved over the years to encompass films and gaming.

"There is also, of course, the Cosplay, with

people dressing up as their favourite character. We have a competition for the best outfit that will run over the weekend. Our judges are huge in the world of Cosplay," he said. The weekend convention spans the generations, from stars ranging from television accurate Dr Who daleks, to Doug Grant from the series, Walking Dead and Virginia Hey of Farscape and Mad Max 2. Ozcon will also be raising money for Alzheimers UK.

Cash boost to partnership to improve farm safety

THE Wales Farm Safety Partnership will receive £46,000 to promote health and safety within the agricultural and forestry sector, cabinet secretary for energy, planning and rural affairs Lesley Griffiths has announced.

The funding will be used to support the partnership's campaign "Working together to make farming safer".

The cabinet secretary made the announcement as she met Farming Connect's four newly appointed health and safety mentors at the Royal Welsh Show last week. The mentors will

help individuals and businesses identify risks, eliminate hazards and reduce the risk of accidents within the business.

The Farming Connect mentoring programme has been running for two years and over 100 farmers and foresters have already used the service, totalling over 750 hours of peer to peer support.

There were a tragic 144 fatal injuries to British workers in 2017/2018, with agriculture accounting for 29 per cent of the fatalities. Thousands more have suffered serious injuries

and work related ill health. Lesley Griffiths said: "Health and safety on farm is of paramount importance. The Wales Farm Safety Partnership plays a key role in helping to drive down the unacceptable number of serious accidents and deaths that occur on the farms across Wales each year.

"I am therefore pleased to be able to announce £46,000 for the partnership to promote the importance of health and safety through their 'Working together to make farming safer'. "Farm safety is a lifestyle, not a slogan. We

must not lose sight of the fact, as with any industry or business sector, workplace health and safety and any measures and costs associated with making the farm safe is an issue for and the responsibility of individual farm businesses.

"It has never been more important than it is right now for farmers in Wales to look at what is on offer from Farming Connect. The Farming Connect mentoring programme has a track record of providing valuable support helping individuals and businesses."

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18 Councillor hits out at cuts to health services

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, August 2, 2018

CUTS to public health services in Shropshire have been labelled “regrettable” and an “embarrassment” by a councillor.

Earlier this month Shropshire Council’s cabinet agreed to save more than £1.6 million over the next two financial years by making cuts to public health services.

But Councillor Pam Moseley in a question to full council, said that later this year Shrewsbury will be hosting the 2018 UK Recovery Walk, which celebrates freedom from drug and alcohol dependence, and asked if the cuts are not therefore both “regrettable and an embarrassment”.

Councillor Moseley also asked Councillor Lee Chapman, the portfolio holder for adult services, health and social housing, what alternative course of action will be taken if the outcome of the equality and social inclusion impact assessment demonstrates that the proposed cuts will impact too greatly on service user groups.

Councillor Chapman replied saying the savings will be used to support other public health services.

He adds: “As the public health grant is a ring-fenced allocation of funds from the Department of Health, any released funds will be focussed on programmes that will be utilised to achieve public health outcomes. A key focus for public health interventions is addressing health inequalities.”

Big crowd at opening of new bike track

A BIG crowd turned out to officially open a new pump and bike track in a north Powys town.

Plans have been in place for a long time to build a track at Cae Bodfach in Llanfyllin. On July 21 an official opening took place and mayor of the town Simon Baynes said: “It was a pleasure for me to formally open the new Pump/Bike Track in Cae Bodfach, Llanfyllin with a great turnout of cyclists, family supporters, onlookers and visitors to the town – and our celebrity guest Tony Skeggs who kindly provided the live music in the evening.

“Many thanks to the Llanfyllin Community Initiative for making this possible.

“Congratulations to everyone who has worked on digging and making the track, raising and donating money and helping – they have created something very special which is already giving many young people a great deal of pleasure.”

Volunteers worked for years to secure funding and make the work happen.

Chairman of the committee Liam Swain added: “I would like to thank the local businesses for their generous support. Without the support, this fantastic project for Llanfyllin would not have been possible. I cannot thank them enough.” The celebrations were tinged with sadness, as former chair of the community initiative, Wendy Evans, sadly passed away. A tree will be planted in the autumn and Mr Swain added: “Wendy was an inspiration to us all and is missed enormously.”

Caring Emily in fundraising cycle

WHEN Emily Roberts decided she wanted to help an animal charity she set her sights high.

The seven-old-old took to her beloved bicycle and completed an 18-kilometre cycle ride in the hills around the village of Selattyn near Oswestry where she goes to school. Her fundraising has already raised £265 for the RSPCA.

Her family undertook the cycle ride with her and said it had been a lovely way to raise money.

Her mother, Gemma, said: “Emily is passionate about animal welfare and felt compelled to do something to help raise awareness and money for animals. She loves animals and wants to be a vet when she is older.”

She said her daughter chose the RSPCA to raise funds for because she wanted to help them to continue the amazing work that they do.

Emily returned home to bunting and balloons for finishing her sponsored ride.

Anyone wanting to add to Emily’s total can do so through justgiving.com/fundraising/emily-roberts03.

Patients spent more than 600 days waiting for discharge or transfer over a month

Report by Lisa O'Brien

And patients at Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust (Shropcom), which runs community hospitals across the county, spent a total of more than 120 days waiting to be discharged or transferred to a different care facility.

A “delayed transfer of care” occurs when a patient remains in a bed after being officially declared ready for transfer.

Patients must be safe to transfer and signed off by both a doctor and a multidisciplinary team, which could include social or mental health care workers, before they are classified in this way.

The figures do not include delays in transferring a patient between wards, or from one acute hospital to another.

Health bosses say they are working to reduce the delays.

Nigel Lee, chief operating officer at SaTH, said: “Discharge from hospital often involves a number of different teams in order to safely support patients going home with care or to a place of ongoing care.

“Significant work is taking place across the health and care system to address these issues.

“This work includes SaTH working with partners such as our commissioners, the Community Health NHS Trust and the local authorities.

“Locally, we have a relatively low level of de-

layed transfers of care and SaTH has one of the lowest levels of patients in hospital over three weeks in England.”

Nia Jones, director of operations at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital, said: “We are working with care providers and commissioners to reduce the number of delayed transfers of care, to improve the overall care of our patients.

“The aim is ultimately to be able to discharge our patients as soon as they are medically fit, while ensuring that they have the right rehabilitation and care package in their home setting.”

Steve Gregory, director of nursing at Shropcom, said the figures related to a small handful of patients with complex needs that must be met so that they can be discharged or transferred safely.

Future Fit ‘is about future cuts’ public meeting hears

Report by Sue Austin

CONSULTATION over the future of emergency care in Shropshire is “not Future Fit but future cuts”, a meeting in Oswestry heard from a former patient.

A public meeting to give people in Oswestry the chance to have their say over the Future Fit debate, which proposes shutting the A&E units in Shrewsbury and Telford and instead having one emergency centre for the county, was hosted by the town council.

The preferred option out to consultation is for the emergency centre to be at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital with urgent care centres both there and at the Princess Royal in Telford.

More than 50 people were able to quiz Dr Simon Freeman and others from Shropshire Clinical Commission group, which is holding the consultation, and hear from members of Shropshire Defend Our NHS. Dr Freeman said the job of Future Fit was, within a given amount of money, to look at what is the best way to organise hospital services across Shropshire to best meet people’s health needs go forward. “I am in charge of getting the best for Shropshire with the money we are given,” he said. Shropshire, he said had been given almost half the the entire capital of allocation of NHS England, for Future Fit, £312 million, adding: “Other authorities are looking at Shropshire wondering how on earth we managed to be allocated that money.”

Neil Graham from St Martins, who revealed he had had to have treatment for spinal problems, said Future Fit went against the whole ethos of the NHS.

He said: “It is all back to front. The whole ethos of the NHS is looking after patients’ needs. You are looking at how you can deal with cut back rather than how you can keep me and all the people of Shropshire healthy.

“It is not Future Fit but future cuts.” Members of the audience also said the NHS should be looking at community care in conjunction with Future Fit.

Following a claim from John Penney that Future Fit would mean the loss of 842 whole time equivalent posts, Dr Freeman said: “Doctors and nurses substantially employed by the trust will not lose their jobs.

“Shropshire has a massive agency bill because we struggle to recruit at the moment.”

Dr Freeman said there could be some reductions in clinical staff because of duplication.

Councillors raise their concerns about process



Mayor Sandy Best with compere James Bond and members of the Future Fit team at the public meeting

LAST week’s Future Fit meeting was organised by Oswestry Town Council and was compered by Radio Shropshire presenter James Bond.

The meeting allowed the public to hear more about the health proposals for Shropshire and the plans to close the county’s two A&E departments and have one emergency centre to serve the county. The talks also allowed town councillors to raise their concerns about the

Future Fit process. Town Councillor Duncan Kerr pointed out that the money set aside for the Future Fit programme was not a grant, but permission to spend money.

“Us, the tax payer, will have to pay that money back, at a rate of about £11 million a year,” he said.

When questioned about the future of minor injury units by Councillor Paul Milner, Dr Simon Freeman said the MIUs were under

review but that did not mean they would be closing. He said: “We are looking at whether they are sustainable and how they fit in with the rest of the NHS.”

The meeting was told that 2,500 people had filled in consultation forms either on line or paper forms. The official Future Fit drop-in consultation meeting will be held at Cabin Lane Church in Oswestry on August 15 between 3.30pm to 7.30pm.

Say no to both options on table, campaigners say

DEFEND Our NHS campaigners say money earmarked for a new emergency unit for Shropshire should instead go to improving the health services in communities.

Gill George told a public meeting in Oswestry last week, organised by the town council, that shiny new glass and steel palaces was not the best use of resources.

She said a fraction of the £312 million set aside for the changes to emergency care would make a fundamental difference.

In a critical speech against the Future Fit

proposals, with plans for one emergency centre and two urgent care centres replacing the current A&E departments, she said: “It is a ramshackle set of proposals rewritten so many times.

“Future Fit is now basically about cuts.” She said there was a critical co-dependency between Future Fit and community care.

Sylvia Davies, also from Shropshire Defend Our NHS, said: “We need good, really good, structural care in the community.

“But what has happened is that the commu-

nity hospitals have been run down and beds on wards have been cut.

“If the community hospitals were used to capacity unit costs would come down and they would be affordable.

“We need to look at ways of looking after elderly people in or near their own homes.

“Some of this capital spending could be put into community hospitals, care homes and domiciliary care.

“Instead what we are getting is an extremely expensive waste of money.”

The Defend our NHS campaign is urging people to fill in the consultation forms but not in favour of either option.

She said: “What we are asking people to do is to strongly disagree to option one on the official form, then turn over the page and strongly disagree to option two as well.”

Dr Simon Freeman for Shropshire CCG said that the consultation was not a popularity vote and that all consultation papers would be taken into consideration before a final decision was made.

Electric charging points set for council car parks

AMBITIOUS plans to bring electric vehicle charging points to Shropshire Council car park sites have been revealed.

Council officers are currently working on a scheme for 10 charging points at Frankwell Car Park in Shrewsbury.

This would be supported by further charging points at Shirehall in Shrewsbury, Ludlow, Church Stretton and Oswestry, with plans to roll it out across the whole county.

Councillor Simon Harris, deputy portfolio holder for public transport, was unable to give

a cost for the programme of works, but confirmed users would have to pay for the service.

He continued: "Most councils are interested in this knowing what the benefits are going to be in bringing people into their towns."

"It is great how it is going to progress and it has really taken off."

Councillor Harris said following discussions with suppliers the units that would charge the vehicles would also have facilities to charge for parking and would be able to monitor air quality.

He also said the unitary authority has plans to switch its entire vehicle fleet to run on electric. He added: "This is quite an exciting project. It would mean that every vehicle with a Shropshire Council logo would be environmentally-friendly." A strategy paper is due to be completed with a view to rolling out the scheme over the coming months. It comes after the Government announced a £400 million investment in the UK's electric car charging infrastructure last November, while recently Transport Secretary Chris Grayling revealed

plans to install electric vehicle charging points on street lighting and on-street parking spaces.

Councillor Steve Davenport, portfolio holder for highways and transport, commented: "This is a big piece of work but we want to bring a green commitment to Shropshire and reduce commissions as well." Several electric vehicle charging points are already in existence across Shropshire, including Euro Garages in Shrewsbury and Oswestry, and the Co-Op in Cleobury Mortimer.

New sharing of information system praised

AN innovative service allowing the sharing of well-being information by voluntary organisations and local authorities in Wales is now operational.

Technological improvements now mean that information can be shared between two different systems, Infoengine operated by voluntary and community organisations and Dewi Cymru developed on behalf of the country's 22 local authorities.

Cabinet member for adult services at Powys County Council Councillor Stephen Hayes said: "This is an excellent example of practical collaboration between the third sector and the public sector in Wales, making sure that vital information is readily available to those that need it."

"The system means that information about well-being services is available to everyone regardless of where the information was original entered. It is collaboration between services at its best."

Infoengine is an online directory of third sector services in Wales.

It is provided and supported by Third Sector Support Wales, a partnership of County Voluntary Councils and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action.

It has over 4,000 services offered by voluntary organisations and community groups.

This number increases daily.

Thousands could have MG infection

THOUSANDS of people in Shropshire could be carrying a sexually transmitted infection which can leave women infertile.

Mycoplasma genitalium, known as MG, affects between one and two per cent of the population, according to the British Association of Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH).

But tests to diagnose it are not routinely available, and BASHH has described the spread of the disease as a public health emergency waiting to happen.

MG can cause no symptoms and is often misdiagnosed as a different disease such as chlamydia.

But medicines for chlamydia are ineffective for MG, leading medical professionals to warn that the infection could become resistant to antibiotics and untreatable within a decade if steps are not taken to tackle it.

Data from Public Health England shows that 560 people in Shropshire were diagnosed with chlamydia last year alone. But this accounts for just 0.2 per cent of the adults in the area, meaning many cases of MG or chlamydia are likely to be undiagnosed.

Just 13 per cent of adults aged between 15 and 24, among whom chlamydia is most easily spread, were screened for chlamydia in 2017.

Honesty box to be installed at toilets

THE town of Llanfyllin is to introduce an honesty box to help meet the increased cost of trebling the number of public toilets available.

The town council has decided to increase the number of public toilets to three after a review of the current facility showed it was heavily used by visitors with frequent queues.

But it will come at a price with the annual budget expected to more than double to over £3,000. It is hoped the honesty box will recoup a significant part of the cost.

"We are introducing an honesty box which will recoup a significant part of this additional cost," said Llanfyllin Mayor Simon Baynes.

"At the moment, only the central toilet is open but we will be re-opening the two on either side in August. We have also improved the cleaning so the toilet is now cleaned every day and the same will apply to the two re-opened ones as well."

"We strongly believe this is a manageable investment for the town which will bring more visitors and therefore custom for Llanfyllin."

Like Welshpool, Llanfyllin was forced to adopt the management of its public toilets three years ago after Powys County Council stopped its funding for them.

President delight for Huw



Farmer Huw Francis is looking forward to Llanfyllin Show on August 11

FARMER Huw Francis is looking forward to his proud day as president of Llanfyllin Show, less than three years after almost losing his life in a cattle attack.

Huw recalls the fateful day in September 2015 when he went to check the sheep on his upland farm with one of his beloved sheepdogs.

A cow, which was protecting her calf, took exception to the dog's presence and set about attacking Huw and other cows from his herd joined in.

Left with multiple injuries, luckily he was still able to use his mobile phone to alert his wife, Alwena, and was flown by air ambulance to hospital in Stoke-on-Trent where surgeons set about saving his life. He had broken every rib, his sternum, three bones in his spine and a leg, yet lived to tell the tale.

"I was very lucky and owe my life to the air ambulance crew and the doctors and nurses at Stoke," said Huw.

"I was fortunate because a nurse at Stoke told me I was the fourth patient they had treated after a cattle attack and I was the only one to go out alive."

He spent seven weeks being treated at Stoke and another three weeks in hospitals at Shrewsbury and Welshpool. He now has a metal rod inserted to reinforce his spine and goes to the gym twice a week to exercise and keep mobile. Understandably, the attack has left him apprehensive around cattle. Incredibly, it was the second time he had survived an animal attack, the first happening as a young man when an aggressive bull tossed him over a barrier. Turning to Llanfyllin Show on August 11, which he has supported for more than 40 years, he said he doesn't normally get to see much of the event, as he's busy helping to run the sheepdog trials, which is a passion.

Llanfyllin Show is held at Bodfach Park by permission of the Bodfach Trust and Janet Jones.

Police battle on drug gangs is continuing

DYFED-POWYS Police has hosted a multi-agency event to protect children and vulnerable adults who are being "used and abused" by organised crime groups to extend their drug dealing business.

Police say County Lines is an emerging national issue, where organised crime groups from urban areas such as London, Liverpool and Birmingham put children and vulnerable adults between themselves and the risk of detection by manipulating them into carrying and selling drugs.

Detective Chief Superintendent Shane Williams said: "Drugs cause serious harm in our communities, and the way these organised crime groups extend their drug dealing business is deplorable."

"Our number one priority is to protect vulnerable people, and this includes children, who can be as young as 12 years old, and the vulnerable adults who are ruthlessly exploited by urban gangs to do their dirty work. Ultimately our aim is to make the Dyfed-Powys area a hostile environment for organised crime groups, preventing all forms of harm associated with these gangs."

"Someone may be vulnerable to exploitation by organised crime groups for a number of reasons, but invariably there is a power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Factors include age, gender, cognitive ability, or social isolation; however, a consistent factor in county lines exploitation is the presence of some form of exchange between the victim and perpetrator."

"In exchange for carrying out a task, the victim may be promised or given something they need or

Report by Sue Austin

want. This could be something tangible such as money, drugs or clothes or intangible such as protection, status, affection or perceived friendship.

"The prevention of something negative can also fulfil the requirement for exchange, meaning a young person or vulnerable adult may carry out an activity due to fear of violence or retribution."

"Any child or vulnerable adult can be affected and it's important to recognise that it can still be exploitation, even if the activity appears consensual."

"Our aim is to shine a light on this exploitation, and by working together with a wide range of partner agencies including local authorities, third sector agencies, housing associations, train and coach operators, identify abuse sooner so that we can intervene and keep vulnerable people safe."

"Cuckooing" is one example of how a gang will use and abuse a vulnerable person.

"This is where a gang will take over a drug users' or other vulnerable person's home, and use it as a base for their local drug dealing. This may be with the blessing of the resident, but more often is as a result of force or the threat of force. In some cases, the resident can also be pressured into selling drugs."

"Dyfed-Powys Police is asking for the public and partner's help to identify exploitation like cuckooing. So, if your neighbour or tenant is suddenly having many more visitors to their property and at unusual times of the day and night, or you notice that their curtains or blinds are almost always shut, it could be because their home has been taken over by a drug dealing gang."

Politician backs campaign to improve road safety in town

WELSH Assembly Member Joyce Watson is backing a campaign to improve road safety.

The A458 recently had 20mph signs installed to slow down traffic in Llanfair Caereinion near Welshpool at the start and end of the school day.

Campaigners say more must be done to protect children crossing the busy road and are calling for signs that show drivers' speed to be fitted.

Speaking in the final debate

before the Assembly's summer break, Mrs Watson urged the government to intervene.

She said: "I've been contacted by Llanfair Caereinion, where schoolchildren have to cross a main road to get to and from their school...whilst local authorities are responsible in the main, we do have to look at trunk roads."

In reply to Mrs Watson, transport minister Ken Skates said: "We have carried out a com-

prehensive review of our trunk roads and introduced our multi-year programme of establishing part-time 20mph limits near nearly all schools on or close to our trunk roads

"These operate at the start and at the end of the school day to create a safe environment for children travelling to and from school, and they also encourage behavioural change, and drive behavioural change, by motorists."

Grant can help firms revamp their base

FIRMS looking to revamp their buildings are being urged to take advantage of a grant scheme.

The scheme is being supported by the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and companies are being encouraged to bid as soon as possible in order to complete their projects before the scheme's conclusion in June.

The Marches Building Investment Grant (MBIG) was launched in 2017 with support from the European Regional Development Fund.

It allows businesses across The Marches to apply for grants of up to £100,000 to facilitate extensions, renovations or reconfigurations that will support business growth and create jobs.

To date, the scheme has awarded businesses across the region £750,000, but with all projects needing to be completed within the next 12 months, programme manager Caroline Cattle is urging any business owner who is yet to progress their application to avoid further delay.

She said: "The tangible difference this scheme can make to businesses across Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin has already been proven. Manufacturing sites have been extended; showrooms have been reconfigured; and warehouses have been transformed."

"Importantly, new jobs have been created with many more safeguarded for the region. It was always our aim that this

scheme should create 130 new jobs and we're already half-way to that figure. However, the terms of the scheme are such that all supported building work must be completed by June 2019. That makes now the ideal time to get an application in so that all the necessary paperwork, planning and construction can be realised in good time."

The Marches Building Investment Grant (MBIG) awards up to 45 per cent of the total project costs, to a maximum £100,000, with funds intended to cover costs directly associated with the conversion or alteration of a building.

For information contact either Caroline Cattle or Alison Rogers – finance officer – on mbig@herfordshire.gov.uk

The new magazine for Shropshire



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Issue 23...



NEWS

STAR SURGEONS!

We learn more about the highly complex and specialist reconstructive surgery performed at Telford hospital and how it's helped one local patient.

OUTDOORS

With a new football season about to get underway, Dave Edwards shares his feelings and expectations of the first game.

EVENTS

Interview with Dara O'Briain ahead of his headline act at the Telford 50 Big Top event.

FOOD

One Shrewsbury cafe creates crepes to suit all tastes. Be sure to check out their recipe.



REVIEWS

The best places to eat, the picks of what's on television, films heading to Shropshire cinemas, and another great day out comes under the microscope.

PLUS DAN NIGHTINGALE | CINEMA
WILFRED OWEN | RURAL CRIME
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ATTINGHAM PARK | TELEVISION

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YOUR COUNTY.
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ON SALE FRIDAY

Striking four bedroomed house in pretty rural hamlet

Moorside House at Woolston, Oswestry, is a striking four bedroomed house having a triple garage. Also coming with a leisure room, bar and cinema area, garden room, gym and segregated offices, it is for sale through Balfours Estate Agents at £495,000.

Situated in the pretty rural hamlet of Woolston, between Maesbury and Knockin, this four bedroom contemporary home offers a breath of fresh air. The approach is a sweeping drive flanked by landscaped lawn, planted with specimen trees. With ample gravel parking the choice is to the four bedroom house, barn or garages, with significant office space above.

Balfours agent, Charlie Giffard, said: "Moorside House is a masterful package, very well thought out and presented. In the house the kitchen/dining room is fully equipped with modern conveniences, while bi-fold doors opening, to the terrace extending social space during the summer months."

The living room is of similar generous dimensions to the kitchen, with a cloakroom and store cupboard completing the ground floor.

On the first floor the master bedroom has en-suite facilities while three further bedrooms benefit from a family bathroom. A versatile barn is currently used as a leisure room to entertain away from the house. Adjacent is a triple garage, part of which provides a kitchenette and WC on the ground floor for offices above accommodating three to four people.

The property lies in around one acre. Its versatile accommodation includes a living room, kitchen/dining room, WC, four bedrooms, en-suite, family bathroom, ample storage, single garage, double garage with WC, log store, leisure room/bar, segregated office rooms above the garage and bar, garden room/office, boiler room with WC.

Woolston is a rural hamlet situated between the villages of Maesbury and Knockin. Maesbury itself has a church and a pub, the Navigation Inn, which is situated next to the Montgomery Canal.

KEY FEATURES

- Contemporary residence
- Four bedrooms
- Outbuildings
- Triple garage
- Sweeping driveway

WOOLSTON £495,000



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Detached house has superb valley views

GARTH
£374,950

An individual detached house with valley views and first floor open plan living, Tyn-Y-Pistyll at Garth, Glyn Ceiriog, comes with a large timber decked area, landscaped gardens and woodland.

It is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £374,950. Briefly the property comes with three bedrooms, a shower room and a bathroom.

A turning timber-built staircase rises up from the entrance hall to the upper level lobby with a tiled floor and external door to the rear. Access leads through to the living area which has a multi-fuel stove fitted to the slate built fireplace, being dual aspect with a large picture window to the rear and concealed radiators.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more information.



Five bedroom home has flexibility and fabulous views

FRANKTON
£480,000

<<<

A generous five bedroom home with opportunity to create an annex or open plan living is on the market in North Shropshire.

Little Crickett, at Frankton, two and a half miles from Ellesmere is launched to the market by Charlie Giffard of Balfours. "This is a charming house with fabulous rural views and much flexibility," says Charlie.

Currently it provides three reception rooms, a kitchen breakfast room and rear kitchen, entrance hall and rear hallway - each with staircases, a conservatory and cloakroom. On the first floor not only are there five bedrooms, a bathroom and a shower room, but also a computer room and a small study.

Little Crickett is marketed with a guide price of £480,000. Call Balfours on 01743 353511.

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- EPC Band - E

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OSWESTRY



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- OFCH - Upvc Windows And Doors
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- Kitchen
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- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Car Port And Driveway
- Front And Rear Gardens
- EPC Band - E

GUIDE PRICE £155,000

LLANGYNOG



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- Outstanding Views Across The Valley
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- Living Room & Dining Room
- Cloakroom & Utility
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- Paddock - In All Approx. 2 Acres
- EPC Band - E

£415,000

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- Gas fired central heating and timber double glazing throughout.
- Raised decking area and fenced terrace
- The grounds extend to the rear of the barn with a large lawned area and mature shrub borders.




Beresford Gardens Oswestry £144,950

- BRAND NEW. ONLY THREE REMAINING
- Beresford Gardens is a new collection of nine two bedroom single storey dwellings
- Located within a short walking distance of the town centre
- Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Hallway
- Two Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Gas central heating and double glazing will be installed as standard
- All properties will be completed to the highest specification
- Benefit of a 10 year NHBC warranty.
- Parking Space, either Rear Garden and or Patio Area



Artillery Road Park Hall £169,995

- A deceptively spacious 3 Bedroom Mid-Terrace Family Home.
- Recently been extended to offer an open plan kitchen/diner to the rear
- Separate Utility Room and WC.
- The lounge benefits from a Multi Fuel log burner & French doors to the garden
- Three Bedrooms and Newly fitted Bathroom to First floor.
- Externally the property offers a enclosed garden
- Paved patio providing a outdoor entertaining area
- UPVC double glazing. EPC Rating E (40)
- NO CHAIN



Prince Street Oswestry £94,995

- NO CHAIN
- 2 Bedroom Mid-Terrace House
- In need of modernisation.
- Situated within walking distance town centre
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen & Utility Room



kinton Nesscliffe £325,000

- A truly unique 4 bedroom Semi-Detached Country Cottage
- Set within large well maintained gardens
- Spectacular views over the Shropshire countryside
- Dining room/Living Room
- Kitchen, Utility Room, Cloakroom
- Lounge, Bathroom
- Four bedrooms and Shower room
- uPVC double glazing and oil fired central heating
- Gardens, Garage and workshop



Llynclys Oswestry £295,000

- A delightful 3 bedroom detached dormer bungalow
- Which has been maintained to a high standard by the current owners
- Situated in the village of Llynclys with views over open countryside
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Sitting Room
- Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, Study and Bathroom.
- To the 1st floor two bedrooms with en-suites & further 3rd bedroom
- Good sized garden with an outdoor BBQ area, summerhouse & garage
- UPVC double glazing throughout and oil central heating



St. Barbara Close Park Hall £189,950

- An immaculately presented 2 bedroom semi-detached house
- Situated within the popular hamlet of Park Hall
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory
- Kitchen, Utility Room and Cloakroom
- 2 good sized bedrooms and Bathroom
- An enclosed rear garden with mature shrub borders and patio area
- Gas Fired central Heating and uPVC Double Glazing throughout
- EPC Rating D (64)



High Fawr Avenue £110,000

- NO CHAIN
- one bedroom semi detached bungalow
- In a sought after residential location
- Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen
- Bedroom and Bathroom
- Gardens to the rear & driveway
- Storage heaters, uPVC Double Glazing
- EPC Rating F (36)



Oswald's Well lane Oswestry £285,000

- A spacious 4 bedroom detached dormer bungalow
- Situated within walking distance of the Market Town of Oswestry
- Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, Dining Room,
- Study/Bedroom Four and Downstairs Bathroom.
- Three Bedrooms and Family Bathroom.
- Gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing
- Good sized garden with views over the Brynhafof playing fields
- EPC Rating C (70). NO CHAIN



Lloyd Street Oswestry £154,995

- NO CHAIN - An immaculately presented 3 bedroom mid-terrace property
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
- Newly fitted Kitchen and Utility Room
- 3 Bedrooms and a newly fitted Bathroom
- Recently re-wired, damp course fitted, decoration, new carpets
- Newly fitted uPVC double glazed windows and doors throughout.
- Gas Fired Central Heating. EPC Rating D (64)



Rowan Close Gobowen £149,995

- An well appointed 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Porch, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory
- 2 Bedrooms and Shower Room
- Well maintained front and rear garden
- Off road parking
- Gas C/H and hardwood D/G
- EPC Rating D (65)



Building Plot Chirk Bank £74,995

- A residential plot located in the picturesque village of Chirk Bank extending to 0.04 acres or thereabouts with outline planning permission for the erection of one detached dwelling
- The site is located within walking distance of the Shropshire Union Canal and the Chirk Aqueduct



Llanhaeadr YM Mochnant £165,000

- A traditional 3 bedroom semi-detached stone cottage
- Spacious living accommodation over three floors comprising
- Entr Hall, Lounge, and Family Room.
- To the lower level is the Kitchen Dining Room, Conservatory
- Utility Room and Shower Room
- 3 bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Riverside garden with wooden decking area
- Oil Fired c/H & partly double glazed windows
- NO CHAIN




Babbinswood Oswestry £350,000

- A spacious 4 bed detached cottage
- Situated in the Hamlet of Babbinswood
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Lounge/Dining Rm
- Kitchen, Utility, Snug & Conservatory
- Two en-suite bedrooms
- 2 further Bedrooms & Family Wet Rm
- Extensive lawned garden with hedge surround
- Patio area & side driveway to Double Garage
- UPVC double glazing throughout



Meadow Dale Llanymynech £177,950

- SUMMER SALE - RESERVE BEFORE 31ST AUGUST AND GET FREE FLOOR COVERING, APPLIANCES AND GARDEN LANDSCAPING.
- NEW BUILD - A Three Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Situated on a brand new small residential development comprising of 35 plots
- Located on the outskirts of the popular village of Llanymynech
- Open Plan Living Room/ Kitchen
- Cloakroom, Master Bedroom,
- 2 further Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden, garage and parking spaces.



Llanforda Rise Oswestry £94,995

- NO CHAIN
- A well presented one bedroom ground floor apartment
- Located in a quiet location
- In the former grounds of High Lea House, off Llanforda Rise.
- Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen
- Bedroom and bathroom



Regent Court Oswestry £94,995

- Well appointed 1/2 Bed First Floor Apartment
- Purpose built retirement complex
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Area/Bed 2.
- Kitchen, Bedroom and Bathroom
- 24 hour resident secretary facility, communal lounge & garden
- Secure designated car parking, security entrance system
- Lift to all floors and guest accommodation



Carneddau Close Trefonen £380,000

- A substantial Detached 4 Bedroom Family Home with Double Garage
- Situated in the popular village of Trefonen.
- This well presented property enjoys a sought after position
- Entrance Hall, Cloak Room, Lounge, Sun Room, Dining Room
- Study, Kitchen/ Breakfast Room, Utility room, galleryed first floor landing
- Master Bed with Dressing Rm & En-Suite, 3 further Double Beds & Family Bathrm
- Off road parking, double garage and enclosed gardens
- Oil central heating and double glazing.



Rosehill Avenue Whittington £199,995

- Well proportioned 2/3 bedroom detached dormer bungalow
- Situated in the sought after village of Whittington
- Ent Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen
- Dining Room and Study/Bedroom 3
- 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom on 1st floor
- Enclosed rear garden with paved seating area
- Gravel Driveway and Single Garage
- UPVC double glazing and Gas C/H
- EPC Rating awaited. NO CHAIN



Building Plot Gobowen £50,000

- An excellent residential development opportunity located in the popular village of Gobowen
- Extending to 0.12 acres (0.04 ha) or thereabouts
- Having outline planning permission for the erection of one detached dwelling.



Well appointed home sits in a cul-de-sac

TETCHILL
£279,000

A well appointed detached four bedroom house, 4 College Close, Tetchill, near Ellesmere is situated in a small cul-de-sac position with only five properties.

It is located in a sought after village on the outskirts of Ellesmere. The property is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £279,000.

The property is a well maintained detached dwelling traditionally constructed of brick under a slate roof having the benefit of oil fired central heating and double glazing.

The home has a reception hall, living room, dining room and kitchen. There is also a utility. On the first floor is the master bedroom, ensuite, two further bedrooms and a fourth bedroom or study.

Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



Stunning farmhouse enjoys superb views

LLANRHAEADR
£400,000

<<<

Clynog, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant near Oswestry is a stunning Grade II listed farmhouse in an elevated position.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £400,000. The property is situated on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant close to the confluence of the rivers Tanat and Rhaeadr in the stunning Berwyn Mountains.

The property has a reception hall, music room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen lounge, kitchen, utility room, rear lobby, coal house, gallery landing, a loft storage room, integral garage, gun room, five first floor bedrooms, a family bathroom, five attic rooms, large gardens and an orchard/paddock.

Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.

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Rodington, Shropshire
Guide Price £550,000

A modern five bedroom barn conversion retaining a number of original features within the village of Rodington

Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Study, WC, Kitchen / Breakfast Room, Utility, Downstairs Guest Room / Gym with Shower Room, Master Bedroom, Three Further Upstairs Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Garage, EPC Rating D



NEW
Plot 7 Tedsmore Grange, West Felton
Guide Price £395,000

5 bed detached house with double detached garage set in a unique parkland setting with large gardens

5 Bedrooms, Kitchen / Dining, Lounge with Log Burning Stove, Cloaks, Utility, Study, Master Bedroom and Bedroom 2 with En Suites and Fitted Wardrobes, Family Bathroom, Double Detached Garage, French Doors to Rear Garden



NEW
Plot 8 Tedsmore Grange, West Felton
Guide Price £325,000

4 bed detached house with double detached garage set in a unique parkland setting with large gardens

Kitchen / Dining, Lounge with Log Burning Stove, Cloak, Utility, Study, Master Bedroom with En suite and Fitted Wardrobes, 3 Further Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Garage, French Doors to Rear Garden



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54 School Lane, Trefonen

£139,000

Modern terraced 3 bedroom house in a popular and convenient village. Kitchen, lounge, conservatory. Garden, off road parking. Easy walk to primary school, public house and village shop. Double glazing and electric heating. EPC Rating = D (62)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



Holly Bush, Sarnau, Llanymynech O.I.R.O: £225,000

Rural detached 3 bedroom bungalow in a small rural hamlet midway between Oswestry and Welshpool. LPG C/H and double glazing. Lawned gardens to front and rear. Requiring structural repair internally. No onward chain. EPC Rating: 20(G)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

Shenfield, Llynclys

£279,950

Mature 3 bedroom house in semi-rural setting. Possible fourth bedroom if study adapted. 3 Receptions. Kitchen, shower room, WC and rear porch. Generous gardens, ample parking and double garage. Partial oil heating and large wood stove. EPC Rating = 21(F)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



74 Borfa Green, Welshpool £149,950

Spacious 3 Bedroom Family House. Improved and Well Presented. New Central Heating System, Hardwood D/Glazing. Corner Plot with Wrap Around Gardens. Superb Far Reaching Southerly Aspect Views over the Severn Valley and Long Mountain. EPC Rating = C(70)

Welshpool Office 01938 554818



22 Mandir Close, Oswestry £157,000

Much larger than first impressions suggest, an extended and improved three bedroom family home which was built around 2010 and which is beautifully presented and has been carefully maintained throughout. EPC Rating = 62(B)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



32 Bentley Drive, Oswestry £375,000

Five bedroom detached House. Excellent location with attractive outlook. Two bedrooms with en-suites. Main bathrooms on first and second floors. Lounge with french doors to attractive garden. No Onward Chain. EPC Rating = 73(C)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

Overhill, Leighton, Welshpool

£325,000

Detached 3 Bedroom Bungalow with panoramic views of Severn Valley. 3 Receptions, Kitchen, Utility, W.C., Conservatory. Double Glazed. Oil C/H. Garden grounds with patio, lawn and seating area. Detached Garage and Workshop. Ample Parking. In Good Decorative Order Throughout. EPC Rating = 49(E)

Welshpool Office 01938 554818



Potential Building Plot, Rhos-Y-Brithdir, Llanfyllin

Potential Plot available for local need use subject to Planning Consent being obtained. Interested parties are to be local and not to have owned a property. The Planning Application and relevant costs are to be the sole responsibility of the prospective purchaser(s). The available plot is to be roadside and would be part of O.S 4190. The plot size is to be agreed.

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

Experts from all of our professional departments will be at Oswestry Show on Saturday August 4th

Residential and Commercial Property Sales
Residential and Commercial Property Letting
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Our bright red stand is facing the main entrance so please call in for a chat and some refreshments

We look forward to seeing you and good luck to everyone competing in the events



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Lettings Centre 01686 626160
Machynlleth 01654 702472

Newtown 01686 626160
Oswestry 01691 679595
Rhayader 01597 739994

Tywyn 01654 710388
Welshpool 01938 554818
Aberdyfi (window display)

Lending on slide as bad news piles up for SMEs

EIGHTY four per cent of the country saw bank lending to SMEs fall in the past year as small businesses continue to face huge headwinds in securing finance.

According to specialist debt adviser Hadrian's Wall Capital (HWC) 101 of 120 areas of Great Britain saw net falls in the value of outstanding bank loans to SMEs last year, as banks continued to withdraw from lending to small businesses.

The total fall in lending amounted to 5.2 per cent, or £9.7 billion, in a single year.

SME bank lending in the Shrewsbury area was down 0.5 per cent to £2.5 billion last year. In Telford, lending fell 7.8 per cent to £775 million.

HWC said that it has seen an increase in enquiries about its fixed-rate finance offering from businesses and their corporate finance advisers, as cuts to bank lending bite amid rising interest rates. HWC added that the bad news is piling up for SMEs that become too reliant on traditional bank loans, with recent research from HWC showing that arise in interest rates by just 0.25 per cent will immediately cost SMEs £355 million in extra interest payments from bank loans.

The firm said that while the need for long term, fixed rate lending for small businesses is growing, access to this kind of finance has fallen sharply. Banks are continuing to push business borrowers towards floating-rate loans as they de-risk their balance sheets in preparation for further interest rate rises over the coming years.

In HWC's opinion these SME funding headwinds are affecting the corporate finance market for small businesses. HWC believes management teams are becoming more cautious on pushing forward with MBO and MBI deals due to concerns over both the availability and the long-term cost of finance.

Marc Bajer, CEO of Hadrian's Wall Capital, said: "The news is not great for small businesses seeking finance. With the period of very low interest rates ending and banks reducing SMEs fixed-rate lending, we don't expect securing finance to get any easier for small businesses in the foreseeable future. Small businesses really need finance which they can rely on."

Property firm wins contract for media base

SHREWSBURY-BASED Morris Property, has been awarded a £500,000 contract to build a new base for expanding design and marketing agency Kensa Creative at Telford's Hortonwood West Industrial Estate.

It will be the sixth unit built there by this leading local contractor and will enable Kensa to move from rented premises in Telford to its own purpose-built offices. The 7,500 sq ft two-storey office block will have space for up to 40 people.

Kensa, a creative design and marketing agency founded in 2010, provides services from traditional graphic design and branding to cutting edge websites, campaigns, video production and interactive media projects.

Their clients include global specialists in energy management Schneider Electric, global veterinary brand Dechra, multi-national office supplies giant Lyreco and a host of SME companies across Telford and the wider Midlands.

Scott Clarke, managing director at Kensa, said: "Kensa has grown significantly year on year, quickly reaching the point where we can't squeeze any more people into our current office space. As creatives it has always been our dream to not only own our own building, but to actually design and build it too. Thanks to a partnership with one of our clients, architectural practice biT Group, and Morris Property, we've been able to make it a reality and are looking forward to all the exciting possibilities this extra space will bring."

The steel-framed building will be clad on the outside and have a pitched roof with five large roof lights to form a high ceilinged first floor space. It will have a state of the art air source and heat pump heating and cooling systems. Morris Property will fit out the first floor and also form a car park and landscaped grounds.

Anti-theft system is a huge success



John Ridgway with the DNA anti-theft system

A NEW DNA anti-theft system designed to foil burglars at commercial and industrial premises has been hailed a huge success by one of the first companies to get it installed – the Old Mill Antiques Centre in Bridgnorth.

Mistguard, the forensic mist intruder deterrent and marking system developed by SeekerDNA, has been in operation at the Old Mill Antiques Centre since this time last year and centre director John Ridgway says he has no doubt that the system has prevented burglaries.

"Before Mistguard was in place we were the target of two major burglaries within the space of several months," he says.

"We lost thousands of pounds worth of jewellery and the fact that we had CCTV

monitors didn't seem to deter the thieves at all.

"Despite police having clear footage and close-up images of the burglars these professional criminals have never been caught and the jewellery has never been recovered.

"But now our buildings are clearly marked as Mistguard protected and potential thieves seem to have realised that on entering our premises they will be marked by DNA mist – and anything they steal will be invisibly marked too.

"I have no doubt whatsoever that Mistguard has prevented further burglaries at the Old Mill and have recommended the system to other major businesses."

Mistguard employs a UV-DNA impreg-

nated misting system which can be manually activated or linked to an existing alarm system. Mistguard is an intruder deterrent and marking system using unique, traceable synthetic DNA and UV markers," explained SeekerDNA director Steve Laugharne

"When activated, an ultra-fine mist is released which marks both thieves and property and irrefutably links perpetrators to the crime – in cases where the use of this synthetic DNA evidence has been available, it has led to a one hundred per cent conviction rate.

"Alarms alert property owners and police about a break-in, CCTV captures the burglars on film but this is just not enough to deter criminals."

Vineyard investment to create new jobs

BUSINESS LATEST

Report by James Pugh

A MULTI-MILLION pound investment into a family-run vineyard will lead to the creation of about 20 new jobs.

Hencote Vineyard Estate, near Shrewsbury, is expanding its operation over the next few months to offer new wine experiences, dining and accommodation.

A new winery, restaurant and shop will open on the 60-acre hill-top estate in September. Meanwhile, new luxury vineyard lodges featuring underfloor heating, wood burning fires, fully fitted and plumbed-in kitchens and bathrooms with a bath and shower are also being created.

Benefitting from an elevated and picturesque location just one mile from Shrewsbury's town centre, the 60-acre hilltop estate offers guests panoramic views across the historic town, towards the hills of Wenlock Edge and Long Mynd in the distance.

Opening in early September will be a light and airy new restaurant, featuring open fire cooking and a large terrace that overlooks the 17-acre vineyard. A wine bar will be used for wine tasting experiences and as an event space for private hire.

The family planned the first vines in 2015 and currently employ about eight full-time and part-time people.

Passion

Owner Andy Stevens said: "We look forward to welcoming visitors to our wonderful new facilities and sharing our passion for British wine making.

"It's going to offer a relaxing and interesting attraction for local people to enjoy. We want to bring everything together in the right formula. Once we have expanded, numbers of employees will swell."

As a working vineyard, visitors can enjoy private and group wine tours. General manager, Mark Stevens, will guide visitors through the process from vine to bottle, walking through the vineyard and finishing in the new winery to learn more about the production process and to sample some of their wines.

During harvest season, guests are welcome to join in with the picking of grapes for production and immerse themselves in the early stage of the winemaking process to learn more.

The estate currently nurtures Seyval Blanc, Pinot Noir Precocoe, Pinot Meunier, Chardonnay, and Solaris vines. Mark said once fully operational, and dependant on the weather, they hope to create about 25,000 to 30,000 bottles of eight to 12 different still and sparkling wines a year. He said: "The general perception of British wine has been that it is not very good. We want to change that perception."



Mark Stevens with father Andy at rapidly expanding Hencote Vineyard Estate

Boost for firm as Andrew helps transform business



Andrew Mason, Gary Matthews and Robin Melley

FINANCIAL experts at a Shropshire firm have credited a non-executive director with helping to transform their business.

Andrew Mason is celebrating his first anniversary of working with Matrix Capital Limited, near Bridgnorth, and his fellow directors have thanked him for his hard work and dedication to the company.

Managing director Robin Melley and director Gary Matthews are chartered financial planners, and they believe having a third person in the

board room has made a huge difference. We knew what we were getting as Andrew had acted as a consultant for us on a number of projects, but it was still a big step to take to bring someone else in. Now though, it's one of the best decisions we ever made – having a third person who is committed to the development of the business and shares our values, but is separated from the day-to-day pressures has been really useful.

"It has helped Gary and I to focus on moving the business forward, and decision-making has been accelerated – having a third person around the boardroom table means we are also constantly challenged to live up to our

plans and aspirations."

During his first 12 months as a non-executive director, Andrew helped Matrix Capital to retain the contract with NS&I to deliver advice to the £1 million Premium Bond winners – they are now contracted for a minimum of a further three years.

Andrew said: "My other key priority is to use my experience as a consultant to help Matrix Capital prepare for future growth by re-engineering some key business processes to improve their efficiency and effectiveness.

"I'm keen to help them maintain the high standards of personal service, as they have contributed so much to their success so far."

Too many 'left behind' despite economic growth

TOO many people are being "left behind" in the West Midlands despite economic growth, according to a new report.

A new State of the Region document compiled by the region's super council says youth unemployment, congestion and the skills gap remain key target areas.

And child poverty is still high and life expectancy low across the region, despite improvements in employment, education and business start-ups. The report – billed as 'an annual update on the economic performance of the

region' – painted a mixed picture of the West Midlands over the past 12 months.

It said the West Midlands was making ground on the national average in areas such as GVA (Gross Value Added), while besting it in others, such as business start-ups.

But council bosses on the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) warned there was work to do in several key areas. Councillor Ian Ward, portfolio holder for economic growth, said: "In terms of the key findings, The majority of the indicators are positive and in

most cases are improving at a better rate than the UK average.

"However, there continues to be some challenges around the skills agenda, and the output gap of GVA per head compared with the national average unfortunately continues to grow. And as we'll all be aware congestion across the region is getting worse."

The report said West Midlands residents still had a shorter life expectancy than the UK average – 59.6 years for males (against 63.3) and 60.3 for females (against 63.9). It notes that

while the number of people taking up apprenticeships did increase, a decline was expected in 2017/18. The number of youth unemployment claimants in the region "remains high" at 16,265, while 30 per cent of children still grow up in poverty, according to the report. On the positive side, total GVA in the WMCA increased from £88.4bn in 2015 to £92bn – a four per cent increase against a national average of 3.7 per cent. There was also a record number of businesses based in the West Midlands, up 13,945 over the past year to 159,355.

Thousands expected at show



Back left, Philip Morris preparing signs for a previous show with bottom right the now show chairman, Nigel Whittingham

THOUSANDS of people are expected to flock to the 133rd Oswestry Show on Saturday as the agricultural community have the chance to give visitors an insight into their world.

With worries over the heatwave and lack of forage for livestock the event will provide a welcome break for farmers.

Organisers say that the aim of the show, at the Park Hall Showground, is to promote agriculture and rural ideas.

The one day show will include several hours of main ring entertainment with the major attraction the Squibb Freestyle Motorcycle Stunt Team, sponsored by Ridgway Rentals.

Other entertainment in the ring will include the Kipperidge Gundog Training team, the Tanatside Hounds and Farming through the Ages – an insight from old to new ways of farming.

This year the humble potato takes the spotlight in the pageant.

Local farmer and long standing show council member, Nigel Whittingham, is chairman for the second year.

He praised the strong band of volunteers who put on the event each year.

"They spend long hours getting the showground ready to welcome the competitors and visitors," he said.

Still volunteering is 91-year-old Philip Morris a life member, who with his family prepare more than 100 posters and banners for the event every year.

Not only does the show endorse the best of British agriculture it promotes local businesses and activities, countryside pursuits and provides a varied programme of entertainment for visitors throughout the day of the event.

Park and ride buses will take visitors to the showground from Oswestry Livestock Market and the Park Gates in the town centre every 15 minutes from 8.30am until 6.30am.

Jeremy Corbyn: Lack of trained staff hits A&E

BOTH of Shropshire's A&E departments have struggled because of a lack of trained staff provided to them, according to Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Mr Corbyn, who grew up in the county, also called on health bosses to think about the future when they make a final decision on where the county's hospital services should be located in the county.

It comes as the public consultation on Future Fit reaches the half-way stage.

The process aims to decide where hospital services should be located in the county, with health bosses recommending that a single emergency centre should be based at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Mr Corbyn said: "It has always been an issue, access to A&E in rural areas, and it is always going to be an issue.

"With travelling times and distances, ambulances are crucial therefore.

"The two A&Es are vitally important. Both have struggled because a lack of trained staff, which have not been provided for them.

"Health is usually discussed around A&Es in hospitals, which is understandable. But one of the biggest issues in hospitals is the lack of social care, numbers of older people who could and should be released from hospital but can't be.

"The other one is mental health. The lack of beds for people with mental health conditions when they need them urgently is simply a disaster.

"There is a big demand, an ageing population in Shrewsbury and the Welsh border area, and a growing population in Telford. Think to the future

Report by James Pugh

not just today." Mr Corbyn was speaking to the Shropshire Star after a tour around Telford manufacturer Protolabs last week.

He was joined by Katrina Gilman, who will stand for Labour in Telford for the next general election.

She said: "We haven't thought of the ambulance service. How is the ambulance service going to cope when they have longer journeys?

"GP services and mental health services are really overstretched. If we look after people's mental health it is amazing to see how much better their physical health is.

"It has to be about all the other services being able to fit together.

"We have to have a debate about A&Es and the mother and baby unit.

"The mother and baby unit being located here was built here for a very good reason.

"The A&E linked with that has to give people access to services.

"We have also got to improve those services so people don't find themselves having to go to A&E in the first place. Future Fit is not it."

Mr Corbyn was visiting Protolabs as part of Labour's campaign focusing on boosting manufacturing in the UK.

The visit began with a discussion on the manufacturing sector between the Labour leader and key members of the Protolabs executive team, followed by a tour of the facility.

The Labour Party's campaign launch began in the morning in Birmingham with a speech by Mr Corbyn to the EEF, the manufacturers organisation.

Normal signs of autumn are making earlier appearances

THE heatwave is leading to wild berries ripening in the Shropshire countryside much earlier than normal.

But the dry weather could spell danger for fruit crops in hedgerows and woods, and for the animals that feed on them, the Woodland Trust has warned.

And leaves on trees may begin to change colour early as they try to preserve water, and they may also be more susceptible to threats such as tree pests

and disease, the trust said. The trust's Nature's Calendar, in which members of the public help record the changing seasons, has already received 59 records of blackberries or brambles ripening, and six records of rowan berries ripening.

The earliest records have come in two months earlier than the baseline average date for such sightings.

And they are about two weeks earlier than the expected date

range for the berries ripening. The conservation group warned that if the current hot, dry weather continues, the lack of rain could lead to berries being smaller or dropping from trees and shrubs altogether.

Dr Kate Lewthwaite, citizen science manager for the Woodland Trust organisation, said: "It may be the height of summer, but because of the recent weather, we're already anticipating signs of autumn."

Top motorway services impress drivers

THREE motorway service stations near Shropshire have been named among the best in England.

Norton Canes (Roadchef) on the M6 Toll road was named best in the country by the latest survey of users by Transport Focus – with a 100 per cent satisfaction rating.

Stafford South on the M6 came second on the survey with 99 per cent satisfaction, after previously being named second worst in 2017.

Hilton Park Southbound, on the M6 near the Staffordshire/West Midlands border, came fourth overall, with 99 per cent approval southbound and 93 per cent northbound. Shropshire's only motorway services, the M54 stop off at Telford, was also

in the upper half of the survey, boasting a 94 per cent approval rating.

Anthony Smith, chief executive of the independent watchdog Transport Focus, said its report provided a snapshot of the experience for travellers. He said services close to Shropshire were performing well, adding: "As the summer holiday getaway gets into full swing it's good to see motorway services customers feel they get a good experience. Motorway services play an important role in providing the break motorists need. Drivers tell us they feel less stressed and more awake.

"Motorway service operators need to focus on ensuring customers see their experience as value for the money they've paid

– that there is good range of food on offer and that buildings are maintained to a high standard."

Other services in the top 10 included Wetherby on the A1(M) in West Yorkshire, Pease Pottage on the M23 in West Sussex and Woodall southbound on the M1 in South Yorkshire.

Across all service stations, 92 per cent of customers said they were happy with their visit. In this second annual survey Transport Focus asked 9,600 customers about their experience at 111 motorway services in England. A motorway service area described as "gloriously ugly" was named the worst in England. Thurrock services on the M25 scored 68 per cent – the lowest in the country.

Children sent to care homes miles away

CHILDREN from Shropshire with complex needs are being placed in care homes hundreds of miles away.

Currently there are 14 of the youngsters living a "significant distance" from the county – including one in Glasgow and another in Cumbria – according to a new report.

The authority is looking at investing £1.2 million to provide new homes with specialist support.

Councillor Kevin Pardy, who was part of the group that produced the report, warned that residential care services in Shropshire are nearly in crisis.

"And he said the council has an obligation as corporate parents to protect children in its care.

Mr Pardy said: "This is important to me and it would help if this is recommended because if not it will turn a service that is nearly in crisis into a crisis."

The report, which was presented to the People Overview Committee, backed a series of recommendations that include investing £800,000 to develop a pair of two-bed homes for children with complex needs.

The council is looking to invest a further £400,000 to provide a suitable property to support young people who are preparing to return home or to foster care.

Skills shortage having impact on businesses

WITH skills in short supply, nearly three in four senior business leaders in Wales say they find that the recruitment process is taking longer – by an average of one month and 25 days.

As a result, 70 per cent report spending more on recruitment – a total of £70 million more than expected.

While the process is taking longer, when talented workers with in-demand skillsets are identified, they are able to take advantage of their strong position, driving employers in Wales to spend an additional £142 million on salaries. Nearly half of employers (48 per cent) were obliged to increase the salary on offer last year, typically on five occasions, by an average of £5,265 each time.

Many organisations have been forced to give up on finding appropriate talent, choosing either to hire at a lower level than intended (57 per cent) or to leave the role vacant (61 per cent). To address the gaps left by doing this, employers in Wales spent £56 million on training to bring workers up to the level required and a further £87 million in temporary staffing.

The financial impact is not the only drawback of the skills shortage. Over half of organisations in Wales admit they are not as agile as they need to be due.

Search on to find best lad and lass

A COUNTYWIDE hunt has been launched to find the "lad and lass" who best represent all that is Shropshire – with prizes worth £5,000 to each of the lucky winners.

The Wood Brewery in Craven Arms – famed for its own Shropshire Lad and Shropshire Lass beers – is staging a series of challenges at festivals throughout the summer to try to find the pair who personify Shropshire the most.

Stephen O'Neil, from the brewery, said the quest aimed to find the lad and lass who stood apart from all other Salopians for their knowledge and love of the county.

He said: "We all know that Shropshire is the most magical place in the country to live and work, with a fantastic history, heritage and community spirit.

"We have the most beautiful landscape, the best towns and villages and Salopians are the friendliest of all people."

To help its quest, the brewery is running crazy Shropshire challenges at festivals across the county throughout the summer, in which contestants play beer pong, race round an obstacle course and face the Shropshire town names challenge. The lad and lass with the best times at each event will win dinner for two at the Plough at the Wood Brewery and their names will go forward to the grand final.

Style your garden to help keep thieves away

YOU may have locked your doors and windows, installed a burglar alarm and prompted neighbours to keep a watch over your home while you're on holiday, writes Hannah Stephenson.

But have you considered how the style and design of your garden could help deter thieves too?

At this year's RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show designers Lucy Glover and Jacqueline Poll had a crime prevention garden that was both stunning and secure, a collaboration between crime prevention initiative Secured By Design with Capel Manor College and the Metropolitan Police.

The striking urban garden featured green security measures, such as columnar trees and prickly plants, but also a calming atmosphere and soft relaxed planting, including beautiful perennials and grasses.

"Some 75 per cent of all burglaries across the Met are via a rear garden. Those with criminal intention are looking for opportunity," said Constable Leslie Gipps, a designing out crime officer with the Metropolitan Police. "What we do in Secured By Design is put in those layers which make it harder for the criminal to spend any real time trying to break in. They will just leave that garden and go for one that's simpler."

Want to add some crime-preventing layers to your garden? Here, the garden designers and Met officers recommend some ways to help deter criminals from targeting your property...

PRICKLY PLANTS

Create a hedge of prickly plants, such as Osmanthus, pyracantha or berberis, next to boundary fencing, which can act as a layer to deter thieves.

In the crime prevention garden, the designers used Osmanthus heterophyllus, a shrub with sharply toothed leaves (similar to holly) under the windows, Berberis thunbergii f. atropurpurea, with stems that bear spiky spines, and pyracantha, a dense spiky shrub which is great grown as a hedge. Pyracantha will grow in any soil and is fast-growing.

GREEN SCREENS

Boundary fences can be the first line of defence, and a good bet is a wire mesh which you can adorn with ivy or other "green screen" – these look pretty but also act as a good deterrent. After all, a wire fence is unlikely to take someone's weight.

DUSK-'TIL-DOWN LIGHTS

Install dusk-'til-dawn low-voltage lights to ensure visibility in the garden at night. Stone effect solar lights will provide additional lighting and sculptural interest throughout the garden.

GRAVEL AROUND THE HOUSE

Gravel is noisy when walked on, so having it around your property means you can hear any unwanted visitors approaching the house. It also alerts dogs.

CURTAIN PLANTING

"The aim is to have rich colour in the garden but not big solid shrubs that somebody can hide behind, so ideally grasses and other plants you can see through," said Glover. Light planting, such as grasses and "curtain planting" with Verbena bonariensis and Sanguisorba canadensis, allows the homeowner to see through the planting.

NARROW TREES

If you want to include architectural interest, use columnar-shaped trees, which are more difficult for intruders to hide behind and also difficult to climb.

ROSES

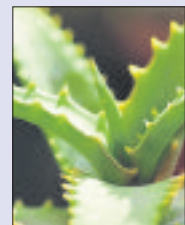
Thorny roses can be used to great effect by training them over pergolas and other supports, which thieves might otherwise climb. The designers used rotating bars on their pergola to prevent thieves climbing. Roses will also give you scent and colour.

GREEN ROOF

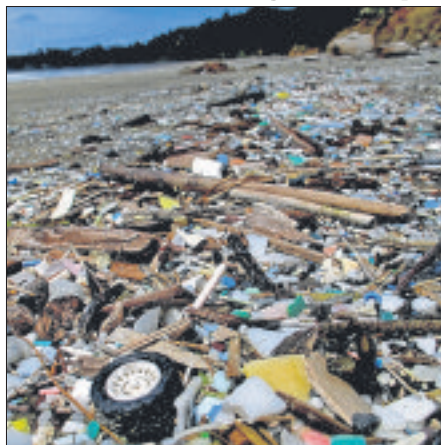
Consider a green roof on your shed featuring spiky plants. The designers have planted a swathe of sedum on their shed roof, interplanted with aloe, a sharper specimen. Any intruder putting their hands on the shed roof would get a handful of prickles.

SHED SECURITY

Don't leave tools outside, but also make it difficult for thieves to gain access to the shed, where you store them.



Discovery of plastic-eating enzyme welcomed



Will the discovery mean the end of plastic being discarded?

SCIENTISTS have discovered by accident a plastic-eating enzyme that could revolutionise recycling and help solve the pollution problems in the world's oceans.

"It sounds like something out of science fiction," said green energy expert Ron Fox. "But it could be one of the great discoveries of this century."

The finding could reduce the time it takes plastic to decompose from centuries to just days and could make it recyclable.

The breakthrough came when scientists found a plastic eating bacterium that had evolved naturally at a Japanese recycling plant two years ago.

When they used one of the world's most powerful microscopes in Oxfordshire, which can see individual atoms, to work out its complex molecular structure they changed the enzyme inadvertently and made it more efficient.

Experts at the University of Portsmouth, together with the US Department of Energy, worked out that when they added a solution of the enzyme to plastic its surface literally began to dissolve away.

Professor John McGeehan, who led the research, said even they were shocked by the reaction of the improved enzyme.

They hope to broaden their work so that the enzyme could turn one of the most common plastics used in soft drinks bottles, polyethylene terephthalate, into original new plastic to be used again.

They want eventually to speed up the system and make it

a large scale process so that it will reduce the industry's reliance on oil and the amount of plastic in the environment.

At present around one million plastic bottles are sold every minute around the globe with just 14 per cent recycled. Most of the rest end up in the world's oceans harming marine life and potentially people who eat seafood.

Even those bottles which are recycled now can be turned only into opaque fibres for clothing and carpets and cannot yet be made into reusable clear plastic.

"This discovery is badly needed because if this issue is not tackled soon there will be more plastic, by weight, than fish in our oceans by 2050," said Mr Fox, of Noreus Ltd on University of Keele Science and Innovation Park.

"However, I think the public perception is changing and they want to stop this ever-growing mountain of discarded plastic. But they can't be complacent, this invention will take time to be brought into operation worldwide."

He added: "In the meantime, shoppers and householders need to play their part by encouraging companies and shops to cut back their dependence on plastic packaging."

"They should also reduce their carbon footprint by recycling where possible and ensuring their homes are environmentally friendly and by using green energy."

Mr Fox recommended looking at renewable alternatives such as rooftop solar photovoltaic panels, which change energy from the sun into domestic electricity, and air source heat pumps, which convert heat from the atmosphere into power for the home.

Use water carefully while weather remains scorchio

ROSS UNDERWOOD

Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall



FOR anybody who came of age in the 1990s and watched "The Fast Show" there was a comedy skit involving a TV weather presenter.

Her bulletins from an unidentified country were almost uniformly the same... hot hot and hotter!

Well it has been a lot like that here and with the sunny dry spell set to continue it is worthwhile considering how to mitigate the effects of drought stress.

Water water everywhere might be the obvious answer, but making frivolous use of this precious resource is likely to do little to help.

The heat of the day means that water is easily drawn from the surface of the soil so ideally water early in the morning or late in the evening. This means that water will penetrate deeper and get to the roots where it is most needed so give your plants a really good soak rather than a quick splash and dash. Shallow watering will draw roots to the surface leaving the plants even more vulnerable to stress.

For containers consider moving them into a shady spot so that the pots themselves do not heat up and stand them in a saucer of water so that the water is replenished during the day and the roots are kept cool.

Evaporation

A great solution for plants in the ground or in containers is to use porous pipe or soaker hose which uses a low volume of water from an outside tap or water butt and gradually soaks the soil drop by drop. Because the water is applied directly very little is lost to evaporation.

Mulching around the base of plants will also help to conserve moisture in the soil because the water will be drawn from it first before the soil. Use compost, bark or gravel but thoroughly soak the area first so that you don't simply lock in the dryness.

Plants are losing water all the time. Water is lost through microscopic openings in the leaves and is replaced by water taken up through the roots. This process is called transpiration.

In the event of severe drought keeping the roots of herbaceous plants alive will ultimately keep the plant alive. If you have herbaceous plants that you wish to save then consider cutting off the whole plant at the base. This seems drastic – and it is.

For many plants such as geraniums and oriental poppies this will form part of routine maintenance, tidying them up after they have flowered. This can also be done with later perennials such as crocosmia, rudbeckia and asters and many more. The foliage that you cut away will be replaced



The prolonged warm weather is starting to dry out reservoirs – so think carefully about how you use water in the garden



It was only a comedy sketch – but the weather really is scorchio

my a neat mound of new growth eventually and maybe some late blooms. The important thing to consider is that at least they will be alive.

A word must be said about lawns. Grass will recover. Grass roots go deep and although the top may have gone brown the

sward will return with rain. They can be kept green by irrigation and sprinklers but really this is a poor use of water at a time when it has to be conserved!

On another serious note. Gardeners as well as everyone should be careful.

As a retained firefighter I know that many



There are ways of using low volumes of water

brigades, Shropshire included are stretched by demands placed on them by the current drought. Please think and act responsibly, conserve water and be careful when having a barbecue, using fires or disposing of rubbish. A carelessly tossed cigarette or glass bottle can be enough to start a major blaze.



Keep raw meat away from ready-to-eat food



Hands need a good scrub and so do work surfaces



Make sure you know exactly how to cook meats properly before you start throwing them on the coals

Don't let food poisoning spoil summertime barbie

By Liz Connor

WARM weather is an invitation to fire up the garden grill with family and friends but let's face it – nothing ruins sunny weather like having food poisoning.

The common illness, which is caused by bacteria or other toxins hidden in contaminated food, can cause sudden onset nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea, leaving you desperately in search of the nearest bathroom.

The UK suffers over a million cases of food poisoning a year according to the Food Standards Agency, and around 280,000 cases are caused by a bacteria called campylobacter.

While you can be struck down by it at any time of year, cases tend to peak in the summer months as the warmer weather creates the perfect breeding ground for bacteria to multiply.

So how best can you tuck into delicious barbecued food and make the most of the hot weather?

Here are a few preventative tips for staying safe in the sun.

Wash your hands

We all know that the first rule of cooking is to wash your hands thoroughly, but how many of us actually do it? Before handling any food, make sure you clean your hands with antibacterial soap and water, and pat them dry with a towel.

Each time you handle raw food – such as meat, fish or eggs – you should always re-wash hands. The same goes for touching the bin, going to the toilet or handling pets.

Give worktops a good wipe

It's not just your hands that need a thorough scrub; the NHS advises wiping any surfaces you plan to use with either antibacterial spray or hot, soapy water, as well as washing knives, chopping boards and other utensils before use.

It's also a good idea to wash your sink thoroughly too, as bacteria can easily be passed from plate to plate.

Use separate chopping boards

One of the easiest ways of spreading the most common food-borne bacteria is through cross-contamination. Avoid poisoning your dinner party by using different chopping boards and knives for preparing raw meats and assembling ready-to-eat dishes like salads.

Keep raw meat separate

NHS advice says it's especially important to keep raw meats, like chicken, pork and beef, away from ready-to-eat foods, such as salad, fruit and veg. This is because these foods won't be cooked before you tuck into them, so any bacteria that manages to find its way onto them won't be killed.

It's wise to have a separate shelf on the fridge for raw meats, preferably at the bot-



Barbecues are great in the summer but hot weather create the perfect breeding ground for bacteria to multiply

tom, where it can't touch or drip onto other foods.

Cook food thoroughly on the barbecue

Food safety begins with the chef, so make sure you know exactly how to cook meats properly before you start throwing them on the coals. Heat kills bacteria, so meat needs to be thoroughly cooked through on the grill.

Turn your meats regularly and check they're ready by cutting into them – they should not be pink in the middle and the juices should run clear. If you're still not sure, you can use a meat probe thermometer to check the temperature of your meat.

It's a good idea to cook chicken in the oven prior to giving it a final grill on your barbecue – you'll still get the smoky flavour,

but you'll be safe in the knowledge that it's cooked all the way through.

Cool leftovers quickly

When it comes to hosting a barbecue, it's easy to overestimate your guests' appetite and cook too much food.

If you're left with cooked food that you want to save, the NHS advises cooling it as quickly as possible (within 90 minutes) and storing it in the fridge or freezer. You should also use any leftovers from the fridge within two days.

What to do if you get food poisoning
Although unpleasant, most cases of food poisoning are mild and clear up in a few days. Symptoms to look out for include being sick, diarrhoea, nausea, stomach cramps, a high temperature and feeling fatigued.

The signs usually start between one and three days after eating infected food but, in rare cases, they can strike weeks later.

To treat poisoning, you're advised to drink mostly water in sips to avoid dehydration, and avoid solid foods and dairy products until the symptoms have cleared up.

Once you are feeling better, you can ease into eating and drinking again by snacking on bland foods, such as crackers and toast.

Thankfully, you should feel better in a matter of days, with no lingering effects.

However, you should make an appointment with your doctor if you have severe diarrhoea that lasts for more than three days, have frequent vomiting that lasts for more than two days or if you see blood in your stools.

Top ten medicinal plants of pharmacist

HERBAL remedies have been the foundation of healthcare throughout history, and many modern drugs are derived from plants.

But while sometimes only prescribed drugs and medical treatments are suitable, the British Herbal Medicine Association (BHMA) points out that even today, herbs can be ideal complements to modern medicines.

It's estimated that more than a third of Brits regularly use traditional herbal medicines to treat minor ailments, such as coughs and colds, back pain, sleep problems and stress.

Do herbal medicines work?

Some studies have found that certain traditional herbal remedies can have a beneficial effect. Researchers from King's College London, for example, examined traditional Indian diabetes treatments and cancer treatments used in China and Thailand, and found they had useful properties.

In the case of diabetes, extracts from the curry leaf tree were found to have positive effects in helping regulate the release of glucose into the bloodstream.

Another King's study found 'promising activity' against lung cancer cells from certain Eastern plants, particularly the Thai aquatic weed *Ammannia baccifera*, and the Chinese plant *Illicium verum* or star anise.

Conversely, while ginkgo biloba has been said to enhance memory and help treat dementia, several US studies have found it has no effect. And although garlic is thought to help lower cholesterol, a 2007 Stanford University study found it made no significant difference. Much of the evidence for the effectiveness of herbal medicines is anecdotal, and complementary medicine experts say full – and very expensive – clinical trials need to be carried out to confirm or refute any benefits.

Here, Dr Dick Middleton, a retired pharmacist and now director of the BHMA, outlines – in no particular order – his top 10 medicinal herbs...

1. Rhodiola rosea

"For relieving stress with an energy boost as well, the herb *Rhodiola* is difficult to beat," says Dr Middleton.

2. Pelargonium

"Take this herbal remedy at the first signs of a cold to keep the symptoms at bay.

3. Devil's Claw

Dr Middleton says research shows root extracts of this herb have anti-inflammatory, muscle relaxant and pain-relieving properties. "Take for all types of muscle and joint pain," he suggests.

4. Passion Flower

"This herb relieves stress and anxiety and has a calming effect on mood," says Dr Middleton, who suggests it's particularly helpful for relieving insomnia caused by worry and anxiety, when taken in combination with Valerian.

5. Black Cohosh

This well-known herb is said to relieve menopausal symptoms such as hot flushes and night sweats. Middleton says it's also effective for

relieving the mood swings that often accompany the menopause.

6. Valerian

"Valerian root extract has been shown to improve the quality of sleep, but always take it for a few weeks in order to gain maximum benefit," advises Middleton.

7. Echinacea

This herb has been used for many years to relieve symptoms of colds and flu. Many users also believe it has immune-boosting properties.

8. Milk Thistle

Milk Thistle is widely used to relieve symptoms of overindulgence with food and drink, and Middleton says: "Many users take the herb particularly at Christmas time because it has a longstanding reputation for protecting the liver."

9. Agnus Castus

Middleton says clinical studies have shown that when taken daily on a regular basis, this herb relieves many premenstrual symptoms such as mood swings, cramps, bloating and breast tenderness.

10. St John's Wort

"This herb is very effective in relieving low mood and anxiety when taken regularly," says Dr Middleton. However, it can affect the way some medicines work.



August 4



European Championships 2018

1.15pm
Hazel Irvine presents further live coverage of day three of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event in Glasgow.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. Matt Tebbutt is joined in the kitchen by chefs Rick Stein and Cyrus Todiwala, while wine expert Charlie Stein selects the perfect bottle to accompany the dishes they prepare.
- 11.30 Nadia's Family Favourites.** Dishes for times when it seems there is nothing in the house to eat, including fruit salad fattoush, ginger rice with spicy chickpeas, and carrot cake pakoras with cream cheese dip. (R)
- 12.00 Bargain Hunt.** In a special one-hour edition of the show, Caroline Hawley and Colin Young each help two teams search for potentially profitable items at an antiques fair in Builth Wells, Powys. (R)
- 1.00 BBC News; Weather.**
1.15 European Championships 2018. Hazel Irvine presents further live coverage of day three of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event in Glasgow, featuring the latest track cycling events. Commonwealth points race gold medalist Elinor Barker is expected to be in action at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, and looking to claim the European title.
- 4.45 European Championships 2018.** Hazel Irvine presents further live coverage of day three of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event in Glasgow, as the men's 100m breaststroke swimming final takes place at the Tollcross International Swimming Centre. Olympic champion and world record holder Adam Peaty will be attempting to add another medal to his growing trophy cabinet, and will start as heavy favourite.
- 6.40 BBC News.**
6.50 Midlands Today; Weather.
7.00 European Championships 2018. Clare Balding and Gabby Logan present continued live coverage of day three of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, where medals are up for grabs in sports including track cycling at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome. Home favourite and defending European champion Katie Archibald will be looking to bring the house down in the women's individual pursuit final.
- 9.00 Casualty.** Alicia plucks up her courage to tell the police that she has been raped. Eddie accompanies the paramedics who are called out to treat Jon's wife after she suffers serious burns - and is arrested on his return to the hospital. Bea leaves to make a fresh start in Paris, and Alicia receives an unwelcome visit that has devastating consequences. Last in the series.
- 9.50 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.**
- 10.10 FILM: Iron Man 3 (2013).** The armoured avenger hunts for the mastermind behind an untraceable series of bombings, despite being cut off from his usual resources and traumatised by a recent brush with death. His search uncovers a secret conspiracy involving a drug that renders the user indestructible. Superhero adventure sequel, starring Robert Downey Jr, Gwyneth Paltrow and Don Cheadle.
- 12.10 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
12.15 BBC News.



Proms Extra

6.50pm
Katie Derham focuses on the BBC SO tackling Shostakovich and two unconventional proms featuring folk music. She is also joined by Kerry Andrew and Golda Schultz.

BBC2

- 6.35 Marrying Mum and Dad.** Izzy plans a sweet-themed extravaganza as a treat for her mum. (R)
- 7.05 Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers.** More breath-taking record-breaking.
- 7.35 The Engineers.** A team of expert designers constructs dream dens for lucky youngsters. (R)
- 8.05 Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall.** Steve Backshall puts dinosaur senses to the test. (R)
- 8.35 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities.** Revealing the top speed of a cheetah. (R)
- 9.00 European Championships 2018.** Live coverage of day three from Glasgow.
- 1.15 Kew on a Plate.** Raymond Blanc and Kate Humble reflect on their year. (R)
- 2.15 Garden Rescue.** Charlie and the Rich Brothers are asked to tackle a front garden in Ilkley. (R)
- 3.00 Wanted Down Under.** An air traffic controller who already has a job offer in Australia. (R)
- 3.45 Escape to the Country.** A couple looking to buy their first home together in rural Staffordshire. (R)
- 4.45 Flog It!** Making a profit at auction. (R)
- 5.20 Great British Railway Journeys. (R)**
5.50 Inventing the Impossible: The Big Life Fix. A monitoring solution for a four-year-old with a rare form of epilepsy. (R)
- 6.50 Proms Extra.** Katie Derham presents the weekly magazine show, focusing on the BBC Symphony Orchestra tackling Shostakovich and two unconventional proms featuring British and Irish folk music. She is also joined by composer Kerry Andrew, soprano Golda Schultz and violinist Pekka Kuusisto.
- 7.30 Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring initiates a recruitment campaign, but makes the mistake of leaving Wilson in charge of the poster. (R)
- 8.00 Blitz: The Bombs That Changed Britain.** The stories of bombs dropped on Britain in the Second World War, beginning with an unexploded bomb that fell on the East End of London on the first night of the Blitz. (R)
- 9.00 Angela Carter: Of Wolves and Women.** Profile of the author, featuring animated sequences inspired by her surreal stories and readings from previously unpublished letters and diaries. Narrated by Sally Phillips.
- 10.00 Alan Partridge: Why, When, Where, How and Whom?** Documentary celebrating 25 years of Steve Coogan's comic creation, featuring contributions from writers and co-stars and previously unseen rehearsal and improv footage. (R)
- 11.00 Live at the Apollo.** Katherine Ryan comperes an evening of stand-up at London's Hammersmith Apollo, performing and introducing routines by guests Henning Wehn and James Acaster. (R)
- 11.45 Golf: Women's British Open Highlights.** Eilidh Barbour presents action from the third day of the event, which this year is staged at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club in Lancashire.
- 12.45 Picnic at Hanging Rock. (R)**
1.35 FILM: Jackpot (2011). Crime comedy, starring Kyrre Hellum.
- 2.55 This is BBC2.**



Big Star's Little Star

7pm
Stephen Mulhern hosts the entertainment show in which the children of Sally Phillips, Samia Longchambon and Kian Egan spill the beans about their famous parents.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Sooty 6.10 Make It Pop 6.35 Dino Dana 6.50 Mission Employable 6.55 The Oddbods Show 7.05 NinjaGo: Possession 7.30 The Haunted Hathaways 7.55 Drop Dead Weird**
- 8.25 ITV News.**
8.30 Zoe Ball on Saturday. The host is joined in the studio by guests Denise Welch and Rick Astley.
- 9.25 James Martin's Saturday Morning.** Chris Tarrant and Aggi Sverrisson join James in his kitchen, where he prepares beef stew and dumplings, and jam roly poly with custard. (R)
- 11.20 James Martin's American Adventure.** The travelling chef visits Dallas, and heads to Southfork, the location made famous in the TV series Dallas. James gets a tour before cooking in the grounds of the ranch.
- 11.50 Eat, Shop, Save.** A Sussex father is challenged to improve his diet. (R)
- 12.20 Love Your Garden.** Alan Titchmarsh and his team make over a garden in Newark for double-amputee veteran Nathan Cumberland and his young family. (R)
- 1.20 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
1.30 ITV Racing Live: Glorious Goodwood. Ed Chamberlain and Francesca Cumani present coverage of the fifth day of the event, where the main race of the day is the 3.40 Qatar Gordon Stakes.
- 4.00 The Chase.** Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)
- 5.00 WOS Wrestling.** Spectacular wrestling action with the stars of WOS. Presented by Rachel Stringer, with commentary from Stu Bennett, Alex Shane and SoCal Val.
- 6.00 ITV News and Weather.**
6.15 ITV News Central; Weather.
6.30 Japandemonium. A review of the best Japanese TV, showcasing nasal weightlifting to a show where rockets are fired at people. Narrated by Melvin Odoom.
- 7.00 Big Star's Little Star.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the entertainment show in which the children of Sally Phillips, Samia Longchambon and Kian Egan spill the beans about their famous parents, talking about their home lives, making heart-warming revelations or telling downright embarrassing stories. The contestants are all hoping to win as much money as possible for their chosen charities.
- 8.00 FILM: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013).** The party of dwarves and their hobbit ally face the dragon that stole their homeland. Part two of the fantasy adventure trilogy, starring Martin Freeman and Ian McKellen.
- 11.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
11.20 FILM: Hard Target (1993). An out-of-work merchant sailor investigates sadistic hunters who stalk human prey in New Orleans. John Woo's action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Yancy Butler.
- 1.05 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas.
- 3.00 Eternal Glory. (R)**
3.50 ITV Nightscreen.



The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1

11.20pm
The first half of the two-part conclusion to the romantic fantasy series, with Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner.

Channel 4

- 6.10 Triathlon: Hever Festival of Endurance.** Action from the event staged at Hever Castle in Kent.
- 6.40 The King of Queens.** Arthur inherits a house. (R)
- 7.05 The King of Queens. (R)**
7.30 The King of Queens. (R)
7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. A piano brings back memories. (R)
- 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray's golfing form falters. (R)
- 8.55 Frasier.** Eddie receives psychiatric help. (R)
- 9.25 Frasier.** The Crane brothers land a double date. (R)
- 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R)**
10.25 The Big Bang Theory. Leonard accompanies Amy to a colleague's wedding. (R)
- 10.55 The Simpsons.** Bart suspects Ned Flanders of murder. (R)
- 11.25 The Simpsons.** Lisa grows jealous of a new girl in town. (R)
- 11.55 Come Dine with Me.** Dinner party hosts try to outdo one another in Bristol. (R)
- 12.55 Four in a Bed.** The first visit of the week is to the Miners Arms in Nenthead, Cumbria. (R)
- 1.25 Four in a Bed.** Two Bolton brothers compete for the coveted best B&B title. (R)
- 1.55 Four in a Bed.** Nigel and Pok U Regan welcome guests to Bingham Townhouse in Nottinghamshire. (R)
- 2.25 Four in a Bed.** The last visit is to Float by Boat, near Rugby. (R)
- 3.00 Four in a Bed.** It is the final day in the competition. (R)
- 3.30 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** A couple look for a home in Alicante, Spain. (R)
- 4.30 The People's Vet.** New series. Documentary following staff at two charity pet hospitals.
- 5.30 Escape to the Chateau: DIY.** Dick Strawbridge searches for a stash of wine hidden during the Second World War. (R)
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
7.00 A Year in the New Forest. In winter, the trees are bare and many creatures are in hibernation, while those that are still awake must do all they can to survive.
- 8.00 My Family and the Galapagos.** Monty Halls joins a survey team monitoring juvenile sharks, and tries to determine whether the ecosystems of the Galapagos can cope with all the people who live and visit there.
- 9.00 FILM: Sisters (2015).** Premiere. Two sisters return to their parents' home before it is sold, and decide to relive their teenage years with one last wild party. Comedy, starring Amy Poehler and Tina Fey.
- 11.20 The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1 (2011).** Vampire Edward and human Bella get married, but her subsequent pregnancy has dangerous implications. Romantic fantasy sequel, with Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson.
- 1.25 The Last Leg.** A comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. (R)
- 2.20 The Big Narstie Show. (R)**
3.15 Hollyoaks. (R)
5.25 Star Boot Sale. (R)
5.55 Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)



Gino's Win Your Wish List

9pm
Gino D'Acampo hosts this game show in which a family of five contestants choose their dream prizes, then answer questions to try to win the items on their wish list.

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Wissper 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Kittens 6.40 Seaside Antics 6.45 Olly the Little White Van 6.50 Simon 7.00 Peppa Pig 7.05 Paw Patrol 7.15 Thomas & Friends: Extraordinary Engines 7.30 Fireman Sam 7.45 Rusty Rivets 8.00 Paw Patrol 8.15 Pirata & Capitano 8.30 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.50 Floogals 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.10 Shimmer and Shine 9.30 Digby Dragon 9.45 Peppa Pig 9.55 Peppa Pig**
- 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R)**
10.35 Naughty Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of amusing clips of toddlers appearing on the internet. (R)
- 11.25 Police Interceptors.** Damo deploys a stinger in a bid to stop a drunk driver. (R)
- 12.20 Police Interceptors.** Liam and Ben attempt to catch a gang of late-night burglars. (R)
- 1.20 Police Interceptors. (R)**
2.20 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. Catching up with tenants and landlords from previous episodes. (R)
- 3.20 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords.** A man happily living in his garden shed. (R)
- 4.20 Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords.** Housing officers receive a tip-off about an overcrowded property in Harrow. (R)
- 5.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** The agents chase almost £3,000 owed by Indian takeaway owners. (R)
- 6.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Agents visit a former professional footballer who owes £4,500 in unpaid legal fees, and in London the officers chase up a £4,000 debt owed by a car dealer. (R)
- 7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v India. Action from the fourth day of the First Test in the five-match series, taking place at Edgbaston.
- 7.55 5 News Weekend.**
8.00 Blind Date. A familiar face makes a comeback, as Devorshka from series one returns to pick another date, hoping it will be more successful than her last one.
- 9.00 Gino's Win Your Wish List.** Gino D'Acampo hosts this game show in which a family of five contestants choose their dream prizes, then in pairs answer questions to try to bank the items on their wish list. In the final round, two players try to secure all the prizes they have won so far - as well as a dream family holiday.
- 10.00 The Women with the World's Biggest Hips.** Documentary about four plus-size women who are proud of their figures and make the most of them, including one whose hips are eight feet in circumference. (R)
- 11.05 Too Fat to Work & On Benefits.** The lives of people who rely on benefits, beginning with those who are obese, including a man who thinks employers are prejudiced against fat people. (R)
- 12.00 SuperCasino.**
3.10 Body Donors. (R)
4.00 Body Donors. (R)
4.45 House Doctor. (R)
5.10 Great Artists. (R)
5.35 Wildlife SOS. (R)

The
Ticket



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Live Challenge Cup Rugby League

12.15pm
St Helens v Catalans Dragons (Kick-off 12.30pm). Coverage of the opening semi-final, which take place at the Macron Stadium in Bolton.



European Championships 2018

12.15pm
Further live coverage of day four of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, featuring road cycling and synchronised swimming.



Carry On Forever

10.20pm
A look at the golden age of the comedy franchise in the mid to late 1960s, with Amanda Barrie revealing what life was like on the set of Carry On Cleo.



The Shopping Centre: Artist in Residence

11.10pm
Artist Rachel Maclean spends a month living in Birmingham's Bullring Shopping Centre, and makes a film exploring happiness.



Chuckle Time with the Chuckle Brothers

6.10pm
The comedy duo introduce this new clip-show, featuring the funniest fails, flops and falls uploaded to the internet.

BBC1

- 6.00 **Breakfast.**
- 9.00 **BBC News.**
- 10.00 **Sunday Morning Live.** Sean Fletcher and Cherry Healey present topical debate covering religious, moral and ethical issues, with guest panellists and contributions from viewers.
- 11.00 **Bargain Hunt.** Natasha Raskin Sharp presents as Philip Serrell and Richard Madley help two teams scour the high-street shops of Hungerford, Berkshire, for items to sell at auction. (R)
- 11.25 **Songs of Praise.** Katherine Jenkins visits Hastings to discover how the famous battle of 1066 affected the history of Christianity. Sean Fletcher meets members of choral group VOCES8. (R)
- 12.00 **BBC News; Weather.**
- 12.15 **Live Challenge Cup Rugby League.** St Helens v Catalans Dragons (Kick-off 12.30pm). Mark Chapman presents coverage of the opening semi-final, which take place at the Macron Stadium in Bolton.
- 2.30 **Live Challenge Cup Rugby League.** Warrington Wolves v Leeds Rhinos (Kick-off 2.45pm). Mark Chapman presents coverage of the second semi-final at Macron Stadium in Bolton. This match sees Warrington take on Leeds in another clash laden with Challenge Cup history. These sides met in both the 2010 and 2012 finals, and having won on both occasions, The Wire will be looking to repeat that trick today.
- 5.00 **Pointless Celebrities.** Liz Pichon, Pam Ayres, Quentin Letts, Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, Jill Mansell, Jimmy McGovern and Mark Watson take part in a celebrity writer-themed edition of the unorthodox quiz. (R)
- 5.50 **BBC News.**
- 6.05 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 6.15 **Countryfile.** The show comes from East Yorkshire, where John Craven meets cobble boat enthusiasts, Margherita Taylor uncovers a secret art trail, and Steve Brown learns about uses for hemp.
- 7.15 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Trellisick House and gardens in Cornwall, with unusual finds ranging from an ejector seat from a Vulcan bomber to a miniature sewing kit.
- 8.15 **FILM: Florence Foster Jenkins (2016).** Premiere. A tone deaf socialite imagines she is a great singer, but problems arise when she decides to perform at Carnegie Hall. Fact-based comedy, with Meryl Streep.
- 10.00 **BBC News.**
- 10.20 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 10.30 **MOTD: Community Shield Highlights.** Manchester City v Chelsea. Gary Lineker presents action from the curtain-raiser to the top-flight campaign, as the Premier League and FA Cup winners clashed at Wembley Stadium.
- 11.15 **Imagine: Jeanette Winterson - My Monster and Me.** Writer Jeanette Winterson talks about her childhood in Lancashire, her recent breakdown, the quest to find her birth mother and how the power of books helped her survive. (R)
- 12.30 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 12.35 **BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.20 **Glorious Gardens from Above.** Christine Walkden's heads to Aberdeenshire, and to Crathes Castle, where she learns about the challenges of gardening in an unforgiving climate. (R)
- 7.05 **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don offers advice on how to deal with drought conditions for vegetables, fruit, flowers and containers, while Carol Klein celebrates flamboyant summer shrub the hydrangea. (R)
- 8.05 **Countryfile.** The team visits Exmoor, where Matt Baker attends a residential course teaching children outdoor skills and Margherita Taylor goes in search of the UK's most endangered butterfly. (R)
- 9.00 **European Championships 2018.** Live coverage of day four of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, featuring rowing, track cycling, swimming, synchronised swimming and gymnastics.
- 12.15 **European Championships 2018.** Hazel Irvine presents further live coverage of day four of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, featuring road cycling, synchronised swimming, rowing and gymnastics. The women's cycling road race is scheduled to take place around the city centre, and Marianne Vos is looking to claim another European gold.
- 5.00 **European Championships 2018.** Gabby Logan and Clare Balding introduce further live coverage of day four of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, as track cycling and swimming dominate the schedule this evening.
- 9.00 **Travels in Trumpland with Ed Balls.** Ed investigates America's gun culture, travelling to Louisiana, the state with the highest statistics for gun murders. He goes on patrol with a sheriff's deputy, who discusses the challenges of policing a heavily armed population, and spends the night in jail with some Trump supporting criminals. He moves on to Parkland in Florida, where he meets survivors of a recent school shooting who are campaigning for stricter gun ownership laws.
- 10.00 **FILM: Nightcrawler (2014).** A petty crook goes into business filming crime and accident scenes and selling the footage to news broadcasters. Crime drama, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Rene Russo.
- 11.50 **Golf: Women's British Open Highlights.** Eilidh Barbour presents action from the fourth and final day of the event, which this year is staged at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club in Lancashire.
- 12.50 **Sign Zone: Countryfile.** The team visits Exmoor, where Matt Baker attends a residential course teaching children outdoor skills and Margherita Taylor goes in search of the UK's most endangered butterfly. (R)
- 1.45 **Sign Zone: Holby City.** Fletch is shocked by a face from his past, Hanssen attempts to express his feelings to Roxanna, and Serena and Ric decide to teach Nicky and Meena a little humility. (R)
- 2.45 **This Is BBC2.** Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.

ITV

- 6.00 **CITV: Sooty 6.10 Make It Pop 6.35** Dino Dana **6.50 Mission Employable 6.55 The Oddbods Show 7.05** NinjaGo: Possession **7.30 The Haunted Hathaways 7.55 Drop Dead Weird**
- 8.25 **ITV News.**
- 8.30 **Zoe Ball on Sunday.** With guests David Morgan, Nish Kumar and Phil Davis.
- 9.25 **Japandemonium.** A review of the best Japanese TV. (R)
- 9.50 **Cannonball Splash Hits.** Andrew Flintoff presents highlights from the action-packed game show. (R)
- 10.55 **Ninja Warrior UK.** Obstacle-course challenge, with Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. (R)
- 12.00 **WOS Wrestling.** Spectacular wrestling action. (R)
- 1.00 **ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 1.15 **Big Star's Little Star.** With Sally Phillips, Samia Longchambon and Kian Egan. (R)
- 2.15 **Catchphrase.** Guessing game, hosted by Stephen Mulhern. (R)
- 3.00 **Tenable.** Friends from Somerset play the game. (R)
- 4.00 **Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.** With Rita Simons, Mark Benton and Oti Mabuse. (R)
- 5.00 **The Chase.** Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
- 6.00 **Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs.** Paul helps to train an over-excited beagle, and also meets a toy poodle and a pug that came in as a pair but might be better off finding new homes separately. (R)
- 6.30 **ITV News and Weather.**
- 6.45 **ITV News Central; Weather.**
- 7.00 **Midsomer Murders.** Barnaby and Nelson team up with a pair of female detectives in Copenhagen to investigate the murder of factory boss Eric Calder. Neil Dudgeon and Gwilym Lee star. (R)
- 9.00 **Unforgotten.** As it becomes clear the suspects are lying, Jake goes in search of Tim Finch's ex-wife to uncover her version of events - and uncovers disturbing information about Chris Lowe's past.
- 10.00 **ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 10.20 **Carry On Forever.** A look at the golden age of the comedy franchise in the mid to late 1960s, with Amanda Barrie revealing what life was like on the set of Carry On Cleo. (R)
- 11.20 **Tonight at the London Palladium.** Bradley Walsh welcomes the cast of 42nd Street to the famous stage, headed by Sheena Easton. Plus, music from Rick Astley, Imelda May and US vocalist Lea Michele. (R)
- 12.10 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 **Motorsport UK.** Richard John Neil presents racing from Croft, featuring highlights of round 10 of the Renault Clio Cup UK, and round 12 of the Ginetta Junior Championship. (R)
- 3.50 **ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.
- 5.05 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)

Channel 4

- 6.10 **Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup.** Action from the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium.
- 6.40 **Motor Sport: Mini Challenge.** Action from the Oulton Park Island Circuit.
- 7.05 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray discovers his parents planned to divorce when he was a child. (R)
- 7.35 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray is persuaded to work from home. (R)
- 8.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra starts writing a children's book. (R)
- 8.30 **Frasier.** Niles throws a house-warming party. (R)
- 9.00 **Frasier.** Roz does community service at a retirement home. (R)
- 9.30 **Sunday Brunch.** With guests Maya Jama and Ed Balls.
- 12.30 **The Simpsons.** Homer becomes a member of the paparazzi. (R)
- 1.00 **The Simpsons.** Homer accidentally declares himself bankrupt. (R)
- 1.30 **FILM: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012).** Family comedy sequel, starring Zachary Gordon.
- 3.25 **Location, Location, Location.** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer visit Essex and Hertfordshire. (R)
- 4.25 **A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** A couple seek a permanent home in Crete. (R)
- 5.30 **Homes by the Med.** Charlie Luxton visits an Ibiza mansion built of bamboo and concrete. (R)
- 6.30 **Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 **Flying Across Britain with Arthur Williams.** New series. A former royal marine explores Britain from the air in his own single-seater aeroplane. His journey begins in the West Country, where he meets an aerobatic champion.
- 8.00 **Hidden Britain by Drone.** New series. Tony Robinson presents aerial footage of areas of Britain that are off limits to the public, including an abandoned theme park, and underground wine vaults.
- 9.00 **The Handmaid's Tale.** Offred is sent to a familiar place, while Emily is assigned to a mysterious new house.
- 10.10 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers-quiz, inviting Sean Lock and Rob Beckett to take on Jon Richardson and Claudia Winkleman. (R)
- 11.10 **The Shopping Centre: Artist in Residence.** Artist Rachel Maclean spends a month living in Birmingham's Bullring Shopping Centre, and makes a film exploring happiness with the help of a large pink rabbit. Last in the series.
- 12.15 **FILM: Devil's Knot (2013).** A private investigator suspects three teenagers on trial for child murder are the victims of a witch hunt. Fact-based crime drama, with Reese Witherspoon and Colin Firth.
- 2.15 **FILM: Chevalier (2015).** Greek comedy, starring Yiorgos Kendoros.
- 4.00 **Gillette World Sport.**
- 4.30 **Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb.** Three sellers in Cardiff compete to sell their homes. (R)
- 5.25 **Star Boot Sale.** (R)
- 5.50 **Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** How to create a personalised doormat and coasters. (R)

Channel 5

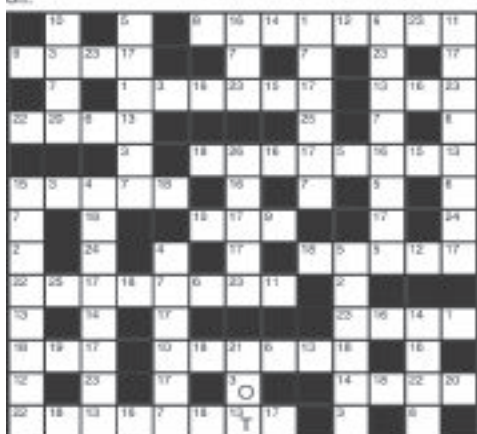
- 6.00 **Milkshake!:** Little Princess **6.10** Wissper **6.20** Poppy Cat **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey **6.35** The Secret Life of Kittens **6.40** Seaside Antics **6.45** Olly the Little White Van **6.50** Simon **7.00** Peppa Pig **7.05** Paw Patrol **7.15** Thomas & Friends: Extraordinary Engines **7.30** Fireman Sam **7.50** Rusty Rivets **8.00** Paw Patrol **8.20** Pirata & Capitano **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective **8.50** Floogals **9.05** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **9.15** Shimmer and Shine **9.30** Digby Dragon **9.50** Peppa Pig **10.00** Peppa Pig
- 10.05 **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** Mikey loses control of his mind. (R)
- 10.30 **Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 4.** Compilation of internet videos featuring animals. (R)
- 10.55 **Police Interceptors.** Kev Salter takes drastic action to stop a vehicle. (R)
- 11.45 **FILM: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010).** Fantasy comedy, starring Emma Thompson.
- 12.45 **Access.** Showbiz news and gossip.
- 12.50 **FILM: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010).** Concluded.
- 1.50 **FILM: 13 Going on 30 (2004).** Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Garner and Mark Ruffalo.
- 2.50 **Access.** Showbiz news and gossip.
- 2.55 **FILM: 13 Going on 30 (2004).** Concluded.
- 3.55 **FILM: Cars (2006).** Pixar animated adventure, with the voices of Owen Wilson and Paul Newman.
- 4.55 **Access.** Showbiz news and gossip.
- 5.00 **FILM: Cars (2006).** Concluded.
- 6.10 **Chuckle Time with the Chuckle Brothers.** The comedy duo introduce this new clip-show, featuring the funniest fails, flops and falls uploaded to the internet.
- 6.55 **5 News Weekend.**
- 7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v India. Action from the fifth day of the First Test in the five-match series, taking place at Edgbaston.
- 8.00 **FILM: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003).** A rogue captain and a blacksmith set sail to rescue a governor's daughter from feared supernatural pirates. Swashbuckling fantasy adventure, starring Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom.
- 9.00 **5 News Update.**
- 9.05 **FILM: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003).** Concluded.
- 10.45 **FILM: Green Lantern (2011).** A pilot joins a galactic peacekeeping force with incredible powers and defends Earth from an alien attack. Sci-fi adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds.
- 11.45 **Access.** Showbiz news and gossip.
- 11.50 **FILM: Green Lantern (2011).** Concluded.
- 1.00 **SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming.
- 3.10 **Autopsy: The Last Hours of Joan Rivers.** Jason Payne-James re-examines the death of the American comedienne. (R)
- 4.00 **Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink.** Cameras follow Leah from Wales as she orders a love heart tattoo. (R)
- 4.45 **House Doctor.** (R)
- 5.10 **Great Artists.** (R)
- 5.35 **Wildlife SOS.** (R)

The Ticket

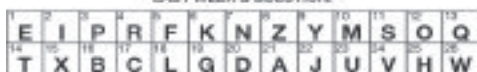
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

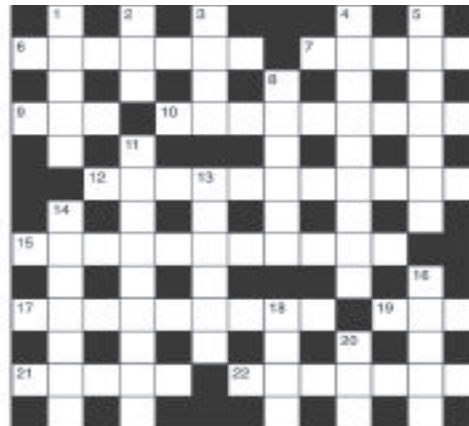
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Race movement begins under his orders (7)
7. Each one always yawns initially (5)
8. The last of the screen dramas (3)
10. First used in mimicking on stage (9)
12. Shows off - mannequin - racing type, perhaps (6,5)
15. Like a heavenly show? (6-7)
17. Care about being unpunctual, but never (9)
19. Be prostrate as story? (5)
21. Started, for example, in prohibition (5)
22. Obligatory process in book production (7)

Down

1. Candidates do so before they can sit (5)
2. Vessel seen in colour, no doubt (5)
3. Retain part of the castle (4)
4. Subdue because of strength? (9)
5. He can't do without glasses (7)
8. Learner referred - it's on him (6)
11. Airs appeal in estimation of value (8)
13. Plaything under which there could be a snake (6)
14. In which cooking may be done at sea? (7)
16. They have their pride, of course (5)
18. Stumble on excursion? (4)
20. Strange ring worn by theologian (3)



Across

6. Lawfully (7)
7. Polite (5)
9. Twisted (3)
10. Consequent (5)
12. Chance (11)
15. Despondent (11)
17. Impassiveness (9)
19. Pledge (3)
21. Bag (5)
22. Chief (7)

Down

1. Memorise (5)
2. Manner (3)
3. Monument (4)
4. Spirit-maker (9)
5. Statelessness (7)
6. Figure (8)
11. Innumerable (8)
13. Nimble (5)
14. Manage (7)
16. Ascend (5)
18. Pour (4)
20. Append (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	7	2	5	4	9	6	1	8
5	8	1	7	3	2	9	5	4
5	5	4	1	6	8	5	7	3
2	3	9	6	3	1	6	4	7
1	6	8	5	7	4	3	2	9
7	4	8	5	9	3	5	6	1
6	1	6	3	2	7	4	9	5
4	3	7	9	8	1	3	5	6
5	9	2	4	1	8	7	6	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Shooting stars; 8 Greenfly; 9 Tie; 10 Cord; 12 Odeal; 14 Ashore; 16 Knees; 18 Miss; 20 Tawdry; 22 Covered market. Down: 1 Chacab; 2 Lovers; 3 Tiff; 4 Ugly look; 5 Stated; 6 One; 11 Twenties; 13 Aisle-lane; 15 Dusted; 17 Error; 19 Iron; 21 Memo.
QUICK - Across: 7 Considerate; 8 Assessor; 9 Orner; 10 Bitter; 12 Nature; 14 Defect; 16 Enigma; 18 Shut; 20 Friendly; 22 Unimpaired. Down: 1 Conspire; 2 Assent; 3 Woe; 4 Entrance; 5 Fill out; 6 Lure; 11 Reflected; 13 Rambling; 15 Extent; 17 Ignite; 19 Hang; 21 Idea.

Quiz

1. On which river does Ipswich lie?
2. With which art form is Pina Bausch connected?
3. Which European capital is divided by the Altile line?
4. In biology, what do two gametes merge to form?
5. What is the biggest British vessel ever lost at sea?
6. To which English king was Hans Holbein the Younger court painter?
7. After which battle is the East Sussex town Battle named?
8. Who played James Bond in The World Is Not Enough?
9. Of what is the morel a type?
10. Which sea lies between Italy and Greece?

Last week's solutions:

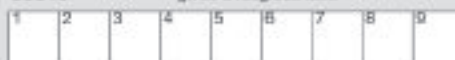
Quiz: 1 P.W. Botha; 2 Asthma; 3 Ibis; 4 Grouse; 5 Irene; 6 St. Thirlian's; 7 George Fox; 8 1086; 9 Unification Church; 10 Aled Jones.
Niner: MERCHANTS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

624789
47335
35319

gives a religious person,
gives a religious person,
gives a religious text.



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AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, LOW INSURANCE,
IPOD CONNECTION,
IMMACULATE CONDITION
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WINDOWS, STILL UNDER FORD WARRANTY
TILL 2019, ONLY 10,000 MILES, IPOD
CONNECTION, IMMACULATE CONDITION
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PEUGEOT 208 1.0 PURE TECH 111 ACCESS
5 DOOR, ONLY £20 TAX PER YEAR,
AIR CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS, 20,000 MILES,
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TOYOTA AYGO 1.0 VVT X PRESSION 08
*** FREE TAX *** FULL LEATHER,
REVERSE CAMERA, ALLOYS, AIR CON,
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1.0 EcoBoost 125 Titanium X
5dr BLUE
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15 Reg MAZDA MX-5 ROADSTER
COUPE SPECIAL EDS 1.8i Sport
Venture Edition 2dr GREY
WAS £13,995 NOW £12,995



15 Reg FORD FOCUS DIESEL
HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec
5dr RED
WAS £8,995 NOW £8,495



65 Reg KIA RIO HATCHBACK
1.4 ISG 3
5dr RED
WAS £9,695 NOW £8,995



15 Reg MAZDA2 SPECIAL EDITIONS
1.5 Sports Launch Edition
5dr WHITE
WAS £9,995 NOW £9,495



64 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK
1.5 EcoBoost 182 Titanium X
5dr WHITE
WAS £9,995 NOW £9,495



16 Reg MAZDA MAZDA2
HATCHBACK 1.5 SE-L
Nav 5dr BLACK
WAS £8,695 NOW £7,995



65 Reg MAZDA MAZDA2
HATCHBACK 1.5 SE-L Nav
5dr WHITE
WAS £8,995 NOW £8,495



64 Reg FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE
2.0 TDCi 150 Zetec
5dr 2WD GREY
WAS £11,495 NOW £10,495



13 Reg FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE
2.0 TDCi 150 Zetec
5dr SUV SILVER
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67 Reg MAZDA MAZDA3 DIESEL
HATCHBACK 2.2d SE-L Nav 5dr
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61 Reg NISSAN QASHQAI DIESEL
HATCHBACK 1.5 dCi Acenta
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15 Reg RENAULT MEGANE DIESEL
HATCHBACK 1.5 dCi Dynamique
TomTom Energy 5dr BLACK
WAS £8,495 NOW £7,995



13 Reg SUZUKI SX4 S-CROSS
DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 DDIS SZ3
5dr BLACK
WAS £7,995 NOW £6,995

TELFORD CARS OF THE WEEK!



15 Reg FORD KUGA DIESEL
ESTATE 2.0 TDCi 150 Titanium
5dr 2WD
£12,995



10 Reg HYUNDAI I20
HATCHBACK 1.2 Classic
3dr
£3,995



64 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA
HATCHBACK 1.4 SE
5dr
£7,495



61 Reg HYUNDAI SANTA FE
DIESEL ESTATE 2.2 CRDI Premium
5dr Auto [5 Seats]
£8,995



14 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK
1.0 EcoBoost Zetec
5dr
£7,295



15 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA HATCHBACK
1.4 ecoFLEX SE
3dr
£8,995



16 Reg RENAULT MEGANE
DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.5 dCi GT
Line Nav 5dr
£9,995



15 Reg KIA PICANTO HATCHBACK
SPECIAL EDITION 1.0 VR7
3dr
£5,695



65 Reg KIA RIO HATCHBACK
1.4 2
5dr Auto
£9,495



66 Reg FORD FIESTA
HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec
3dr
£8,995



05 Reg NISSAN ALMERA
HATCHBACK 1.5 SE
5dr
£2,395



15 Reg FORD B-MAX DIESEL
HATCHBACK 1.5 TDCi Zetec
5dr
£8,495



63 Reg VOLVO V40 DIESEL
HATCHBACK D2 SE
5dr
£9,495



63 Reg VOLKSWAGEN GOLF
DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDI
105 SE 5dr
£8,795



14 Reg NISSAN NOTE
HATCHBACK 1.2 Acenta
Premium 5dr
£7,995



58 Reg MAZDA MAZDA2
HATCHBACK 1.5 Sport
5dr
£4,295



A sharp and sporty design which makes the car unrecognisable from previous incarnations

Nissan Micra now real contender in market

By Graham Breeze

Ten years ago it was no easy task convincing a team of reporters and advertising sales staff why their Fiesta was being switched for a Nissan Micra.

Today it would be a snip. Back then one member of staff described the Micra as a "box on wheels" – how I'd like to track him down now and introduce him to the sharp and sporty design which makes the car unrecognisable from previous incarnations.

The real reason for change back then was purely financial of course but today it's a completely different story with the Micra a genuine alternative to Citroen C3, Ford Fiesta, Toyota Yaris, Suzuki Swift and even Volkswagen Polo.

Changes

With an on-the-road price of just under £17,000 the Micra N-Connecta on test came with a 0.9-litre engine powering a five-speed manual gearbox and stand-out looks.

It was even a bit hard to believe it really was a Micra, such are the design changes.

New Micra gets the last car's running gear but it has been completely updated with cutting-edge electronic technology taken from Qashqai and coupled with a much sportier look offers something completely different.

There are five trim levels available from flagship Tenka through N-Connecta, Acenta, Visia+ and Visia.

DCi Diesel is the only engine available on all five models while the 1.0litre petrol only comes in Visia, Visia+ and Acenta trim

All models get Bluetooth as standard, as well as automatic emergency braking and a lane departure warning system.

Air-con and stop-start tech feature on Visia+ cars, while alloy wheels, smartphone connectivity and a seven-inch touchscreen make an appearance on the mid-range Acenta and above.

On the N-Connecta were heated mirrors and an upgraded infotainment system, advanced drive assist display and Nissan Connect 7inch touchscreen navigation and entertainment system.

The Micra looked the part on 16inch alloys with body coloured door mirrors



There are five trim levels available from flagship Tenka up to Visia



Inside the Micra is simply unrecognisable from the last version

and handles, concealed rear door handles, rear privacy glass and a rear roof spoiler.

Inside the Micra is simply unrecognisable from the basic models I once forced on an unsuspecting staff member, with interior chrome door handles, leather steering wheel, LED ambient lighting, modern black cloth trim, silver decorations and a soft-touch dash.

There's also plenty of storage space, height adjustable steering column, split folding rear seats, a stop-start system front fogs, automatic headlights, LED daytime running lights and rain-sensing wipers.

It's a safer car to drive now too with all-round curtain airbags, hill start assist, intelligent emergency braking with pedestrian recognition,

ride control, speed limiter, road sign recognition and a tyre pressure monitoring system.

You might not expect much from the 0.9 unit but there's a shock in store with a top speed of 109mph, 0-62mph in 12.1 seconds and combined fuel consumption figures of 64.2mpg. CO2 emission figures are just 99g/km.

One of the leading company car magazines branded the Micra as supermini of the year thanks to technology levels which are not only new to this Nissan but also to the segment.

The test car got a vision pack, intelligent key system, a Bose personal audio pack and a bright orange interior personalisation pack to push the price up to £18,740. It's just not the Nissan Micra we have come to know.

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13	NISSAN QASHQAI 360 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY 62K	£9,500	40	VAUXHALL ASTRA BREEZE 1.4 HATCHBACK, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 49K	£4,750
15	RENAULT CLIO HATCHBACK TCE 90 DYNAMIQUE GT LINE SPORT KIT NAV, 5 DOOR, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY £20 ROAD TAX 26K	£7,995	55	CITROEN XSARA PICASSO DESIRE, GREEN, SERVICE HISTORY 68K	£1,795
62	KIA SOUL CRDI, SILVER, AIR CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 32K	£6,695	COMMERCIAL INCLUDING VAT		
11	VOLKSWAGEN POLO SEL TDI 90 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY £30 ROAD TAX 58K	£6,495	58	VAUXHALL COMBO CDTI, WHITE 105K	£2,895
64	VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE 1.2, 3 DOOR, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., BLUE TOOTH, SERVICE HISTORY 17K	£5,895	COMMERCIALS PLUS VAT		
13	RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION PLUS 16V 5 DOOR, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY 42K	£5,995	15	TOYOTA HI-LUX 2.5D-4D 4WD ACTIVE, DOUBLE CAB, WHITE, AIR CON, ONE OWNER 19K	£14,475
63	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXI 5 DOOR, GREY, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 34K	£5,995	66	FORD TRANSIT 350 L3 H3, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ONE OWNER 21K	£13,995
15	PEUGEOT 108 ACTIVE, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER £0 ROAD TAX 27K	£5,995	64	FORD TRANSIT CUSTOM 290 TREND E-TEC, WHITE, FRONT AND REAR PARKING SENSORS COLOUR CODED FRONT BUMPERS CRUISE CONTROL, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 20K	£11,495
10	FORD FIESTA ZETEC, 5 DOOR, SILVER, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 46K	£5,295	14	FORD TRANSIT 350 DRW CREW CAB TIPPER, WHITE, STORAGE IN REAR NO SEATS IN REAR BODY HAS BEEN SAND BLASTED AND PAINTED, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 69K	£10,995
09	FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 53K	£5,184	65	TRANSIT CUSTOM 290, 6 SPEED, WHITE, ONE OWNER, REGISTERED 2016, SERVICE HIST. 30K	£10,695
62	FORD KA ZETEC 1.2, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING £30 ROAD TAX, 10K	£4,995	63	FORD TRANSIT 350 EF 125PS LWB RWD, 6 SPEED, LUTON/BOX VAN, WHITE, SERV.HISTORY 51K	£10,495
10	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI 5 DOOR, SILVER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 58K	£4,995	13	VOLKSWAGEN TRANSPORTER T32 140 TDI SWB, 6 SPEED, ORANGE, AIR CON., SERVICE HISTORY 93K	£10,495
61	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI VTR+, 5 DOOR, METALLIC BLUE, AIR CON, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 56K	SOLD	62	MERCEDES VITO 113 CDI FRIDGE VAN, WHITE TWIN SIDE DOORS, SERVICE HISTORY 46K	£9,995
14	FORD KA EDGE, WHITE, AIR CON., ELECTRIC WINDOWS £30 ROAD TAX 33K	SOLD	63	VOLKSWAGEN TRANSPORTER TDI SWB, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY 78K	£9,695
13	FIAT PUNTO JET BLACK 3 DOOR., BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING 34K	£4,895	15	VOLKSWAGEN CADDY MAXI LWB START LINE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, BLUE, AIR CON, ELEC. WINDOWS, SERVICE HISTORY 28K	£8,795
59	SKODA FABIA 2 16V EST. AUTOMATIC, GREY, HAND CONTROLS AND MOTABILITY SCOOTER HOIST, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 15K	£4,750	14	FORD TRANSIT 100 T280 SEMI HIGH TOP, WHITE, AIR CON., SERVICE HISTORY 46K	£7,695
10	CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE HDI, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE CONTROL £20 ROAD TAX 52K	£4,695	14	FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 240 L2 LWB, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, DIRECT FROM NHS ONE OWNER 69K	£7,495
14	FORD KA STUDIO, BRIGHT RED, FULL SERV. HISTORY, ONE OWNER £30 ROAD TAX 21K	£4,650	61	FORD TRANSIT, WHITE, SERVICE HISTORY 37K	£7,495
10	RENAULT CLIO 1.6 INITIALE T-TOM, AUTOMATIC MET. RED, LEATHER SEATS, AIR CONDITIONING, SERVICE HISTORY 46K	£4,495	15	CITROEN BERLINGO 625 ENTERPRISE, 3 SEATER, WHITE, AIR CONDITIONING, WINDOWS, SIDE DOOR, REAR PARKING SENSORS 19K	£6,995
58	FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE 5 DOOR, SILVER, AIR CONDITIONING, FULL SERVICE, ONE OWNER 39K	£4,195	15	CITROEN BERLINGO, WHITE, 3 SEATS, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON., PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY 38K	£6,795
08	HONDA JAZZ, MET. LIGHT PINK, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY 65K	£3,995	12	FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB HIGH TOP RWD, 6 SPEED, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 79K	SOLD
59	RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.2 TCE 3 DOOR, RED, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 46K	£3,795	08	VOLKSWAGEN CRAWFTR MVB HIGH ROOF, 163 BHP, RED 80K	SOLD
11	CITROEN C1 VTR+, WHITE, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., REMOTE CENTRAL LOCKING, SERVICE HISTORY £20 ROAD TAX 28K	£3,695	15	PEUGEOT PARTNER 850S 90 BHP, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ONE OWNER 29K	£5,995
10	TOYOTA AYGO PLATINUM SPECIAL EDITION, 3 DOOR, SILVER, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY £20 ROAD TAX 60K	£3,395	65	FIAT DOBLO CARGO FACELIFT, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ELEC. WINDOWS, ONE OWNER 49K	SOLD
07	TOYOTA YARIS TR, 5 DOOR, AIR CON., GREY, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 72K	£3,250	15	RENAULT KANGOO ML19 1.5 DCI, WHITE, SIDE DOOR ONE OWNER 56K	£4,995
06	AUDI A4 1.8 TURBO TSE, AUTOMATIC, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 109K	£3,250	MOTOR BIKES		
			NEW RIEJU RS3 125 LC NKD, PRE REGISTERED, INCLUDES FIRST REG. FEE PRE-REGISTERED NEW		£2,495
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MOTORING

A facelift for SsangYong's seven-seater Turismo MPV

By James Parker

The capacious seven-seater SsangYong Turismo has received a substantial front-end facelift to bring it into line with other models in the SsangYong range.

Complete with LED daytime running lights, the car sports an elegant and sophisticated front-look with greatly enhanced road presence. The top-of-the-range Turismo ELX comes with selectable four-wheel drive, a 7-speed Mercedes-Benz automatic transmission, cruise control, parking sensors, rear seating privacy glass, 16" alloy wheels, roof rails, heated front seats, rain sensing wipers and automatic headlights.

Infotainment

It also now includes a smart infotainment system with Bluetooth, RDS, DAB radio, Apple Carplay and Android Auto plus a rear view camera.

At over five-metres long and with a three-metre wheelbase, Turismo is larger than a standard sized MPV people carrier, and features a powerful 2.2 litre diesel engine.

Thanks to its 3,000mm wheelbase, Turismo provides a huge interior space where seven adults can travel in supreme comfort with their luggage loaded in the back, and without having to compromise on passenger



There's 875 litres of luggage space with seven adults seated

accommodation. There are three rows of seats as well as the large load area which can be further increased by removing the third row completely. This gives a massive load carrying capability of between 875 litres with seven adults seated,

through to two adults and 3,146 litres of load space.

The new Turismo is on sale now, with prices ranging from £20,495 for the two-wheel drive EX, to £26,995 for the ELX with four-wheel drive, and is also available through Motability.

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52 JAGUAR S TYPE AUTO Leather, Low Miles £3995	04 VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT, Silver £1295
V JAGUAR XK8 Low Mileage, Silver, MUST BE SEEN £290A	
07 JAGUAR S TYPE 2.7TD Auto, Blue, Leather SOLD	
08 JAGUAR XF SPORT, 2.7 TD Auto, Champagne Met, leather, 50K £8975	

CAR OF THE WEEK	
63 PEUGEOT 208, DTI, Low Mileage, previously supplied by ourselves	£6650
16 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTI 136 Techline, Grey Met. 8k	SOLD
14 FORD FOCUS ZETEC, NAVIGATOR, Auto, Black, 26k,	£7995
11 NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA, 51k, Deep Red Met	£7650
06 VW JETTA SE TDI 140, Black Service History	SOLD
61 BMW 730d, M SPORT AUTO 3.0 DIESEL, stunning looks, Auto	£13875
06 VW Polo 1.2, 5 door, Silver, low mileage	£4450
06 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA Active, low mileage, beautiful car	SOLD
09 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3 door, Coupe, 1.6, Silver	£2925
56 TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT 1.3, Silver, Beautiful Condition, MP3 Player	£2875
54 FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr, Silver	£2495
08 FIAT PUNTO Sporting 7 Jet	£2495
57 FORD FUSION TDCI, low tax, nice proper car,	SOLD
07 RENAULT CLIO, Campus, Silver, 3 door	£1685
03 TOYOTA YARIS, colour collection, 3 door	£1295
52 VAUXHALL CORSA AUTO, Red, only 33k miles	£1225
57 KIA SEDONA Diesel, 7 seats, low miles	DUE IN

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10 (10) SUBARU IMPREZA 1.5 RX Black, Low Mileage.....	£6,250
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Birmingham & District Premier

Cricket League

Premier Division 1st XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Berkswell	14	7	3	2	0	2	229
Knowle & D.	14	9	1	3	0	1	227
WB Dartmouth	14	7	2	5	0	2	213
Shrewsbury	14	7	2	4	0	1	195
Smethwick	14	6	3	4	0	1	190
Kenilworth W.	14	4	5	3	0	2	166
Mossley	14	5	1	7	0	1	151
Ombersley	14	4	3	6	0	1	145
Walsall	14	4	4	5	0	1	140
Dorridge	14	4	1	8	0	1	127
Barnet Green	14	2	3	7	0	2	116
Wolverhampton	14	1	3	9	0	1	100

Division One

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Kidderminster	14	9	1	3	0	1	223
Shifnal	14	7	2	4	0	1	193
Halesowen	14	5	3	4	0	2	187
Oswestry	14	5	2	5	0	2	174
Barnsley	14	5	2	5	0	2	173
Tamworth	14	7	1	4	0	2	172
Bridgnorth	14	6	1	6	0	1	171
Barnards Green	14	6	2	4	0	2	167
Himley	14	5	3	4	0	2	159
Leamington	14	3	3	6	0	1	137
Brockhampton	14	3	0	9	0	2	120
Wellington	14	2	2	9	0	1	94

Division Two

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Walmley	14	8	2	3	0	1	212
C & R Hawks	14	8	1	3	0	2	204
Harborne	14	4	6	3	0	1	199
Sutton Coldfield	14	6	2	4	0	2	178
Attok	14	5	2	5	0	2	176
Penkridge	14	5	3	4	1	1	173
Coventry & N.W.	14	6	2	4	0	2	172
Wombourne	14	5	1	8	0	1	157
Pershore	14	4	4	4	0	2	154
Fordhouses	14	4	0	9	0	1	139
Streely	14	4	2	7	0	1	133
Astwood Bank	14	3	2	8	0	1	112

Division Three

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Stourbridge	14	8	4	0	0	2	228
Stratford-u-Avon	14	8	3	2	0	1	222
Old Hill	14	9	1	3	0	1	218
Rugby	14	8	1	4	0	1	201
Pelsall	14	6	3	4	0	1	196
Hedworth	14	6	2	4	0	1	180
Lichfield	14	6	0	8	0	1	175
Redditch	14	4	2	6	0	2	155
Newport	14	5	1	7	0	1	128
Old Elzabethans	14	3	0	9	0	2	99
Milford Hall	14	2	1	9	0	2	92
Whitchurch	14	2	0	10	0	1	78

Premier Division 2nd XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Leamington	14	10	2	1	0	1	239
Kenilworth W.	14	8	1	2	0	3	211
Shifnal	14	8	1	3	0	2	206
Wolverhampton	14	8	1	3	0	2	205
Attok	14	5	3	4	0	2	185
Knowle & D.	14	5	3	4	0	2	175
Tamworth	14	4	4	6	0	1	182
Harborne	14	3	5	4	0	2	144
Walmley	14	3	3	7	0	1	133
Brockhampton	14	3	2	8	0	1	125
Mossley	14	3	2	7	0	2	110
Himley	14	1	1	11	0	1	71

Division One 2nd XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Bromsgrove	14	8	2	3	0	2	214
Coventry & N.W.	14	8	0	4	0	2	194
Halesowen	14	8	0	4	0	2	193
Walsall	14	8	0	5	0	1	190
Ombersley	14	6	2	4	0	2	182
Astwood Bank	14	6	1	6	0	1	175
Barnet Green	14	5	0	8	0	2	173
WB Dartmouth	14	5	1	6	0	1	163
Penkridge	14	4	3	6	0	1	156
Shrewsbury	14	4	2	7	0	1	155
Wombourne	14	3	3	8	0	1	128
Pershore	14	1	0	11	0	2	62

Division Two 2nd XI (N)

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Bridgnorth	14	11	2	0	0	1	283
Fordhouses	14	11	2	0	1	1	273
Pelsall	14	8	2	4	0	1	219
Smethwick	14	5	3	3	0	1	190
Milford Hall	14	7	2	3	0	2	185
C & R Hawks	14	4	3	5	0	2	161
Wellington	14	4	3	6	0	1	160
Old Hill	14	4	2	5	0	2	148
Lichfield	14	4	2	7	0	1	136
Oswestry	14	3	3	8	0	1	116
Newport	14	1	0	11	0	2	53
Whitchurch	14	1	0	12	0	1	41

Henshalls Shropshire County

Cricket League

Premier

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Wem	14	10	1	1	2	19	250
Quatt	14	10	1	1	2	8	239
Madley	14	9	0	5	0	24	212
Sentinel	13	8	0	3	2	13	195
Worfield	13	6	0	6	1	30	155
Bomere Heath	14	5	0	7	2	28	141
Ludlow	13	5	1	6	1	40	141
St Georges	14	3	2	7	2	46	133
Frankton	13	3	0	8	2	46	118
Beacon	14	2	0	10	0	42	118
Cound	14	1	1	10	2	50	86

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Allscott	15	11	2	2	2	31	288
Alberbury	15	10	0	4	1	27	253
Pontesbury	15	10	0	4	1	17	248
Shelton	15	8	1	4	2	39	239
Knockin & Kinnerley	14	6	1	4	2	24	212
Beacon	15	7	0	7	1	32	189
Wrocester & Uppington	15	6	1	7	1	45	187
Forton	15	5	2	6	2	48	173
Welshpool	15	5	1	8	1	28	144
Albington	15	4	1	10	0	38	135
Condover	14	1	0	13	2	38	105
Market Drayton	14	0	3	13	1	29	4

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Ellesmere	15	10	2	2	1	29	274
Montgomery	15	10	1	2	2	21	244
Lilleshall	15	8	1	4	2	28	217
Shifnal	15	9	1	2	3	14	214
Wellington	15	5	2	6	2	50	183



Hodnet, Peplow & Tibberton	15	6	1	6	2	39	182
Church Aston	15	6	3	4	2	36	180
Ludlow	15	6	1	7	1	36	179
Willey	15	5	1	6	3	47	172
Wheaton Aston	15	4	2	8	1	48	150
Bishops Castle	15	2	0	10	3	47	90
Shrewsbury	15	0	1	14	0	54	21

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Hinstock	15	11	0	1	3	13	268
Calverhall	15	9	1	5	0	32	245
Harpers	14	9	3	2	0	37	227
Iscoy & Fenns Bank	15	7	1	6	2	35	189
Alton Reynald	15	7	0	7	1	41	188
Chelmars	15	4	3	6	2	67	179
Prees	15	7	2	6	0	37	174
Much Wenlock	15	4	1	8	2	39	141
Cae Glas	15	4	1	9	1	47	135
Overton-on-Dee	14	4	1	8	1	37	124
St Georges	15	2	1	12	0	38	78

Division 4

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Trysull & Seisdon	12	10	0	2	0	7	215
Bridgnorth	11	9	1	0	1	8	211
Gulfield	12	6	1	4	1	27	168
Harcourt	12	6	0	4	2	20	154
Corvedale	13	5	2	3	2	30	144
Colum	12	5	2	5	0	36	139
Quayside	13	3	1	8	1	32	110
Coton Hall	12	2	2	8	0	37	89
Llanidloes	13	4	0	8	1	25	89
Beacon	12	1	1	8	2	33	80

Div1 2nd XI

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Sentinel	13	10	1	0	2	14	232
Worfield	14	8	2	3	3	21	188
Wern	13	5	1	6	1	44	157
Frankton	13	6	0	6	2	32	156
Wellington	14	6	0	6	2	22	156
Alberbury	14	4	1	7	2	46	155
Shelton	14	5	0	4	3	18	139
Shelton	13	5	0	7	1	25	137
Knockin & Kinnerley	14	3	1	9	1	49	116
Montgomery	14	2	0	10	2	42	95

Div2 2nd XI

	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Beacon	15	9	1	4	1	22	222
Newtown	15	9	1	4	1	20	217
Madley	15	6	2	4	3	44	201
Forton	15	7	2	1	2	17	213
Alton Reynald	15	7	0	7	1	27	178
Lilleshall	15	6	1	6	2	34	175
Willey	15	5	2	6	1	36	174
Bomere Heath	15	5	2	6	2	36	150
Ludlow	14	5	0	7	2	31	144
Brook	15	8	0	4	3	18	139
Allscott	15	2	1	11	1	61	117
Shifnal	14	3	0	9	2	28	81

Pontesbury	14	11	1	1	1	12	259
Ellesmere	14	8	0	3	3	16	195
Allscott	13	7	2	4	0	31	185
Quatt	13	6	1	4	2	36	177
Forton	14	6	1	5	2	31	173
Albington	13	5	5	0	4	25	157
Welshpool	13	6	1	5	1	26	157
St Georges	13	5	1	4	3	17	140
Iscoy & Fenns Bank	14	4	2	7	1	36	134
Lilleshall	13	3	2	7	1	44	124
Cae Glas	13	7	1	8	1	40	113
Much Wenlock	13	4	1	7	1	25	112
Condover	13	4	1	6	2	24	103
Corvedale	12	1	0	8	3	12	24

Sunday 1

Conderover	13	4	1	6	2	24	103
Corvedale	12	1	0	8	3	12	24
Sunday 1							
	P	W	D	L	C/A	B	P
Knockin & Kinnerley	14	6	3	2	3	43	189
Worfield	14	6	1	5	2	42	189
Frankton	14	6	1	5	2	38	183
Wellington	14	6	1	5	2	31	176
Shrewsbury	12	7	1	3	1	19	170
Pontesbury	14	6	3	3	2	31	167
Wem	13	5	3	2	3	34	163
Cound	14	5	3	5	1	37	161

The latest returns from Shropshire golf clubs

HILL VALLEY
Sapphire Stableford: 1 G Thomas 33pts (20), 2 S Piddock-Jones 29pts (30), 3 S Ratcliffe 28pts (17).

Senior Ladies Salver (Emerald) 15 holes: 1 H Piddock-Jones 72-14-58, 2 J Wiruszek 86-25-61, 3 S Piddock-Jones 88-25-63.

LILLESALL HALL
July Midweek Medal - division one: 1 G Baxter 80-12=68, 2 M Ross 78-9=69; division two: 1 P McAllister 90-23=67, P Terry 84-16=68.
Ladies' Dot Gray Brooch: 1 J Lawson 95-21=74, J Carr 103-28=75.

Medal No 9 - division one: 1R Simpson 87-20=67, D Morton 88-13=75; division two: 1 B Morris 89-22=67, J Lawson 95-21=74; division three: 1 J Lamb 100-33=67, 2 L Stone 98-31=67 (cb).

LLANYMYNECH
Northern Goldsmiths: 1 Tom Bailey 78-18=60, 2 Phil Davies 90-26=64, 3 Harvey Stringer 89-25=64, 4 Paul Prust 79-13=66, 5 Martyn Smith 75-9=66, 6 Robert Hardy 80-14=66.
Ping Four Ball Better ball: 1 Mo Jones & Mal Beckett 45pts, 2 Tanya Cook & Ann Holmes 43pts. Nearest the pin: Kevin Jones 4ft 1in.

MILE END
Seniors July Medal - division one: 1 Phil Trow 78-12=66 2, Dave Field 81-14=67, 3 Roy 83-14=69; division two: 1 Ben Hunter 88-21=67, 2 Paul Walton 87-20=67, 3 John Currie 86-19=67; division three: 1 Mike Eastwood 96-28=68, 2 Peter Walley 98-29=69, 3 Colin Roberts 91-22=69.
July Medal - division one: 1 Ben Hampson 74-5=69, 2 Bob Sharpe 90-11=69, 3 Paul O'Connor 82-12=70; division two: 1 Jason Jones 78-14=64, 2 Gordon Manson 85-16=69, 3 Mick Pierce 83-14=69; division three: 1 Mike Tisdale 90-20=70, 2 Stuart Paterson 92-20=72, 3 Robbie Grocott 93-21=72. Nearest the pin: Joe Wildblood 2.97m.

Ladies' July Medal - division one: 1 Sue Robson 86-16=70, 2 Amanda Ord 88-14=74, 3 Anna Pugh 91-16=75; division two: 1 Pauline Williams 101-39=62, 2 Morgan Wood 102-34=68, 3 Margaret Salisbury 105-37=68.
Seniors' Jack Jones Shield: Winner John Bradford 40pts.

Des Pugh Trophy: 1 Richard Osborne 44pts, 2 Callum Paterson 41pts, 3 Daniel McKay 41pts.

OSWESTRY
Standard Scratch competition: 1 Carter Sayce 77-10=67, 2 Darren Ellis 77-9=69, 3 David Trow 88-16=72, 4 Kim Jones 80-7=73, 5 Tom Matthews 72 -1=73, 6 Jon Lawes 75-2=73.

Four-ball Better-Ball Stableford: 1 Mike Jones & John Hopkin 44pts, 2 Paul Huxley & Gareth Huxley 48pts, 3 Andy Gilbert & Mark Jones 46pts, 4 Eric Gluth & Derek Arthur 45pts, 5 Simon Lewis & Mike Phillips 44pts, 6 Phil Jennings & Phil Beaman 44pts.

Captain's Prize: 1 Anthony Dolman 79-20=59, 2 Chris Male 69-5=64, 3 Thomas Taylor 70-6=64; Best Gross: Gareth Evans 70; division one: James Woodward 72-5 = 67; division two: Bryan Pugh 78-14=64; division three: David Hughes (W'ton) 84-18=66; Veterans prize: John Hewett 76-5=71. Past Captain's prize: Keith Probert 86-12=74.

Ladies' Nine Hole Comp: 1 Alma Barker 21pts, 2 Kath Jones 19pts, 3 Margaret Green 19pts.

THE BROW
Texas Scramble: 1 Terry Brough, Mike Clark, Mike McKay 31-2.8=28.2; 2 John Rich, David Talbot, Keith Abbott 33-3.85=29.15; 3 John Youens, Garry Gregory, Trevor Williams 32-2.5=28.5.

Shropshire Cricket Lge fixture list Saturday

Premier division: Madeley v Cound, Wem v Worleston, St Georges v Ludlow, Quatt v Frankton, Newtown v Sentinel, Bomere Heath (no game).
Division one: Shelton v Welsphool, Albrighton v Beacon, Allscott Heath v Alberbury, Pontesbury v Forton, Knockin & Kinnerley v Market Drayton, Condover v Wroxeter and Uppington 2 v Wellington 3 v Church Aston.

Division two: Ellesmere v Montgomery, Shrewsbury 3 v Bishop's Castle, Wheaton Aston v Ludlow 3, Shifnal 3 v Willey, HPTCC v Lilleshall, Wellington 3 v Church Aston.

Division three: Harpers v Hinstock, Acton Reynald v Church Stretton, St Georges 3 v Iscoyd and Fenns Bank, Much Wenlock v Cae Glas, Chelmarsh v Calverhall, Fries v Overton on Dae.

Division four: Guilsfield v Coton Hall, Llanidloes v Beacon 3, Corvedale v Bridgnorth 3, Quay-side v Oswestry 3, Harcourt v Column, Trysull and Seisdon (no game).

Second teams

Division one: Montgomery 2 v Shelton 2, Worfield 2 v Wem 2, Alberbury 2 v St Georges 2, Frankton 2 v Quatt 2, Sentinel 2 v Knockin and Kinnerley 2, Wroxeter and Uppington 2 v Wellington 4.

Division two: Cound 2 v Madeley 2, Beacon 2 v Acton Reynald 2, Ludlow 2 v Allscott Heath 2, Willey 2 v Shifnal 4, Lilleshall 2 v Newtown 2, Bomere Heath 2 v Broseley.

Division three: Cae Glas 2 v Much Wenlock 2, Iscoyd and Fenns Bank 2 v St Georges 4, Welsphool 2 v Ellesmere 2, Market Drayton 2 v Condover 2, Lilleshall 4 v Allscott Heath 3, Forton 2 v Albrighton 2, Quatt 3 v Pontesbury 2, Bishop's Castle 2 v Corvedale 2.

Sunday

Division one: Pontesbury 3 v Cound 3, Wem 3 v Wellington 5, Worfield 3 v Newport 3, Knockin and Kinnerley 3 v Shrewsbury 4, Sentinel 3 v Lilleshall 3, Frankton 3 (no game).

Division two: Bomere Heath 3 v Alberbury 3, Bridgnorth 4 v Madeley 3, Wellington 6 v Ludlow 4, Madeley 4 v Knockin and Kinnerley 4, Whitchurch 3 v Oswestry 4.

Timely win lifts Church A off foot of table

IT PROVED a profitable night for several local sides who reeled off excellent wins to boost their prospects in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division one.

Whittington A moved up to third in the table with a terrific 9-1 hammering away to Crifftins A, with Ben Hampson leading the charge to four while Aled Davies extended his fine run of form with a 21-4 success - his 12th victory of the season.

Gary Wilkie earned some consolation for the Dudleston Heath hosts when running out a 21-8 winner.

Llanymynech A moved clear of the basement stragglers after hammering lowly visitors Cynwyd A 9-1, taking the aggregate by a mighty 64 shots ((167-103).

It proved a good night for the Candlins with Roger notching the best result (21-6) while James was not far behind in winning to seven. Llany are now up to seventh in the table.

BOWLS by John Bridgwater

Church A lifted themselves off the foot of the table following their 8-2 (156-102) beating of visitors Johnstown A.

They are now in range of several sides above them as hopes of survival remain very much alive.

Mike Jones (21-7) was the best of the night for the hosts, with Phil Laker and Ron Crook also weighing in with single figure wins.

Defending champions Ceiriog Valley A tightened their grip at the top with a 10-0 (168-116) whitewash against one of their chief rivals Ruabon A.

Llangollen are second, 19 points behind the pacesetters, after seeing off Flexsys A 7-3 (146-119) at home.

In the night's other action, Chirk A ran out 7-3 (156-117) win-

ners at home to Corwen A to cement fifth spot, with Kara Singleton (21-7) taking the coppers.

There's no stopping Llanrhaeadr A who marched on at the top of division two after brushing aside Ye Olde Crofte A 8-2 (157-136).

Brian Jones and Hywel Jones both won to 12 as the leaders stayed eight points clear after a good night on the road, with Paul Edwards (21-12) responding for the home side.

Weston Rhyn A stayed in hot pursuit in second position with an 8-2 (145-100) success at home to Johnstown D helped by four single figure displays.

Sue Taylor (21-3) was the best of the night, Carron Riley came through 21-7, while Brian Oakley and Richard Oakley prevailed to eight and nine respectively.

Third placed Crifftins B finished all square at 5-5 away to Plas Kynaston A after narrowly losing the aggregate by five shots (141-

136). Ian Milner (21-12) was their best winner of the night.

Church B remain just above the relegation places after losing 7-3 at Johnstown B, with just 10 shots (149-139) separating the two sides.

Glenys Jones was the best of the night for the visitors with a 21-9 success.

Ellesmere A remain adrift at the basement after their 6-4 (140-126) loss at home to George.

Joy Payne (21-4) notched their best result for the Mercedisers for the second week running, but Carleton Leonard (21-6) and John Hughes (21-7) ensured a successful night for the visitors.

Other results

Division two: Crifftins C 7 (150) Llangynog A 3 (115).

Division three: Ruabon B 7 (153) Ceiriog Valley C 3 (139), Llangollen B 6 (151) Bersham 4 (124), Johnstown C 6 (149) Chirk B 4 (139), Llanymynech Foxes 8 (143) Church C 2 (85), Church Lions 6 (131) Ifton 4 (130).

Division four: Pentre Broughton 10 (158) Llanfyllin A 0 (74), Overton A 7 (148) Cynwyd B 3 (107), Weston Rhyn B 6 (140) Llanymynech B 4 (131), Whittington E 7 (132) Llanrhaeadr C 3 (126), Llangynog C 2 (122) Crifftins D 8 (159), Llanrhaeadr D 3 (120) Ellesmere B 7 (160).

Division five: Whittington C 8 (149) Crifftins E 2 (103), Cynwyd C 7 (145) Chirk C 3 (130), Ye Olde Crofte B 6 (139) Llanrhaeadr B 4 (131), Conwen B 7 (139) Johnstown E 3 (118), Llanymynech C 8 (145) Plas Kynaston B 2 (119), Weston Rhyn C 5 (139) Ponciau Park A 5 (139).

Division six: Ruabon C 10 (168) Overton B 0 (50), Ponciau Park B 8 (158) Weston Rhyn D 2 (110), Church E 8 (154) Llanfyllin B 2 (121), Hampden Arms 6 (152) Whittington D 4 (136), Chirk D 6 (147) Church D 4 (126), Llanrhaeadr E 3 (129) Llangynog B 7 (152).

Ifton gear up for Bylet who beat leaders

IFTON maintained their mid-table position in the Salop Leisure Shropshire Premier Bowls League after picking up five winners away to Meole Brace.

Although losing 9-5 (226-202), the result kept the in-form St Martins side in eighth spot - one behind their Shrewsbury hosts - as they prepare to host Bylet on Friday night.

Dave Bond was the best of the night for Ifton, winning 21-9, while Leighton Roberts prevailed to 15 and Craig Griffiths to 16.

Making up the nap hand of winners, were Darren Lacey (21-18) and Ryan Bond, who edged out Scott Moseley 21-20.

Two days before, Ifton had made it four straight wins as they overcame Hanwood 10-4 (213-177) in their rearranged game after the sides had been frustrated by a waterlogged green the previous week.

Nicky Jones, Joey Williams and Oliver Jones (all 21-8) led the way with fine single figure efforts, while Dave Bond prevailed to nine.

Brian Hayes secured a 21-14 card, Leighton Roberts and Dicky Jones both won to 15 and Craig Griffiths to 17 - his 14th victory of the campaign.

Newport continue to hold sway at the top of the league with a nine point advantage despite their 9-5 (221-191) reverse at Bylet who Ifton meet on Friday evening.

Second placed Sir John Bayley failed to make ground as they went down 10-4 (220-187) at Hanwood, while Castlefields closed the gap in third spot with a terrific 11-5 success at Chester Road, taking the aggregate by nine shots (227-218).

Hammer are rooted to the foot of the table after slumping 12-2 (241-178) away at St Georges, while Wem USG were 9-6 winners at Burway after the aggregate had been shared at 200 shots apiece.

Friday's fixtures: Bowling v Burway, Castlefields v Meole Brace, Hammer v Hanwood, Ifton v Bylet, Newport v Sir John Bayley, Wem USG v Chester Road, Wrockwade Wood v St Georges.

TNS holding slender advantage in Europe

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

BLAINE Hudson's late winner ensured The New Saints hold a slender advantage for this week's Europa League return leg in Gibraltar after overcoming Lincoln Red Imps 2-1 at Park Hall.

On a stifling night, the Saints struggled to find top gear in an often frustrating second qualifying round tie, but eked out a crucial first leg victory when defender Hudson headed in from close range seven minutes from time.

"You're always happy with a win, but on reflection it could have been three or four in the second half," said manager Scott Ruscoe.

"After we got an early goal, I felt we went a bit flat at times, and it was disappointing to concede a goal as they did not really trouble us.

"In the end, there was a sigh of relief when we got the second and we will take the win into Thursday.

"We won't be going there to sit back. We'll be looking to start on the front foot and win the game."

The Welsh Premier champions had enough chances to have secured a more handsome scoreline to take into the second leg, but were thwarted by some poor finishing and spirited defending.

Close range

Even so, they will be hopeful of finishing the job on the Rock on Thursday evening as they look to continue to fly their flag in Europe.

After firing four goals against KF Shkendija in the Champions League the week before, the Saints failed to find that spark and tempo.

Despite that, they went ahead after just six minutes when Jamie Mullan pulled the ball back from the right byline and Dean Ebbe volleyed in from close range for his second European goal.

Although they lacked any real fluency, the Saints still had their chances with Mullan heading straight at keeper Manuel Soler Ortuno, while Aeron Edwards drove a low shot across goal.

The Imps had plenty of the ball early on, looking neat and comfortable in possession in mid-field. And were back on terms on the half hour when left back Joseph Chipolina stole in to head home a left wing free kick.

Saints were forced into a change when goalscorer Ebbe limped off just before half time



The New Saints line up for a team picture before last week's Europa League first leg in Oswestry

with a recurrence of his ankle problem picked up in training.

And his replacement Greg Draper almost found the net with his first touch when his lob was turned over the bar by Soler Ortuno.

The keeper then dived full length to keep out Edwards' header as the home side ended the first half with some impetus.

Ruscoe's men emerged for the second period with increased vigour, but still struggled to find a way past stubborn visitors who continued to frustrate.

TNS had their chances though, and should have regained the lead 10 minutes after the break when Mullan volleyed over the bar at full stretch from Draper's cross.

Danny Redmond spurned a golden opportunity on 70 minutes when his shot was cleared off the line after good work by Draper.

But the Imps - who famously defeated Celtic two years ago - almost took the lead themselves when

sub Ortiz Jimenez's header from a Gamiz free kick brought a smart save from Paul Harrison.

The visitors, however, were showing signs of tiring, and the Saints capitalised when Hudson headed home from close range after Edwards had nodded across goal.

It could have been three, but Draper volleyed wide when well placed moments later after being put free on the right.

Should TNS see off Lincoln, their opponents in the next round would be the losers of the Champions League second qualifying round tie between FC Astana (Kazakhstan) or FC Midtjylland (Denmark).

The New Saints: Harrison, Marriott, Lewis, Cabango, Hudson, Holland, Routledge, Redmond (Cieslewicz 88), Mullan, Edwards, Ebbe (Draper 40). **Subs not used:** Spender, Brobbel, Byrne, Nembjar, Roberts.

Lincoln Red Imps: Soler Ortuno, Chipolina (dos Santos 84), Garcia, Casciaro, Moreno Cerrillo, Hernandez, Vincueria (Ortiz Jimenez 64), Gamiz Maroto, Garro, Paris (Annesley 65), Montesinos Romero **Subs not used:** Casciaro, Hanksin, Corral Valero, Calderon Vallejo, Referee: Thorvaldur Arnason (Iceland)

Town encouraged by pre-season win

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

take from the spot.

Matty Burton's men responded magnificently as they stormed ahead with efforts from Howarth, his second of the game, Louis Moss' free kick and Connor Courtney.

Brookwell pulled a goal back for the hosts in the final minute, but it was all too late as the Oswestry men held firm for a well deserved win.

In their third pre-season game, Four Crosses - newly promoted to the Spar Mid Wales League division two - finished 1-1 at Llanidloes Town in the annual Richard Evans Memorial charity match at Victoria Avenue.

In front of a good crowd, Llani went ahead on 36 minutes through Peter Rees but the Foxen Manor

side hit back 10 minutes into the second period.

Meanwhile, Four Crosses have signed former FC Oswestry Town player Elliott Howes who is returning to the club.

Llanrhaeadr stepped up their preparations for life in the Cymru Alliance with a 3-1 win at St Martins who themselves bounced back with a 5-0 beating of Buckley Town in their final friendly before starting out in the North West Counties League on Saturday.

Llanfair United notched an encouraging 2-1 success at Cymru Alliance Penrhynoch courtesy of goals either side of half time through Josh Astley and Nathan Edington. Josh Shaw pulled one back for the hosts in the last minute.

GUILDSFIELD honoured one of their longest serving players, Gareth Jones, with a testimonial match at home to Welsphool Town which raised £650 for charity.

On-song Monty are eyeing up promotion

IN-FORM Montgomery cranked up their challenge in the Shropshire Cricket League division two after strolling to an eight wicket win against lowly Shrewsbury III.

Lying second in the table, Monty are well on course for a swift return to division one next term after moving to within touching distance of leaders Ellesmere with their latest win.

Tight bowling restricted Shrewsbury to 111-9 in a match reduced to 35 overs a side due to rain, with Sam Williams picking up three wickets for just two runs off his six overs. Harry Wilkinson also claimed 2-19 and Edward Bennett 2-20.

Reaching a modest target proved no problem in reply, with Aaron Ruff-Cock (31no) and Andrew Barker (27) comfortably seeing their side home with more than eight overs to spare.

Victory saw Montgomery close the gap to 30 points on leaders ELLESMERE who were frustrated by the weather at Church Aston.

They looked well placed after dismissing their hosts for 160, with Fraser Duncan, Felix Ashley and Bradley Chapman each claiming two victims.

But the rain started to fall, with the Meresiders unable to get their reply underway, leaving the division's pacesetters with 10 points to show for their efforts.

Target

MONTGOMERY II, unlike their first team, continue to find tough as they remain at the foot of the 2nd XI League division one following their emphatic 10-wicket loss at Wem II.

Electing to bat first, they totalled a respectable 167-6 from their 40 overs, Lennon Bryan making an unbeaten 46 and Charlie Kinsey 26, while Ben Parry picked up 3-27.

But Wem's openers cantered to the target without loss with six overs remaining, Rhys Mellings finishing unbeaten on 71 and Oliver Cooper with 70 to his name.

ELLESMERE II are looking good in second spot in the 2nd XI League division three after their 48-run win away to Lilleshall IV.

Laurence Ashley led the way with 100 as the Meresiders posted 184-5 in 35 overs, Simon Appleyard also chipping in with 26 not out.

Jason Wirdnam then took 2-13 and Lee Davis 2-22 as Lilleshall were bowled out for 136 in reply despite a half century from Supul Fernando (58).

Frankton's survival bid gets a boost

FRANKTON boosted hopes of survival in the Shropshire League premier division after sealing a much-needed seven wicket win against basement rivals Newtown.

After dismissing the Mid Wales side for 210 in 49.2 overs, the Hardwick Park hosts stormed to a revised target of 197 with time to spare to collect 20 points.

Jacob Northwood dismissed three of the first four batsmen to finish with 3-32 off 10 overs, while Jordan Parry collected 3-34 off eight overs including the wicket of top scorer Jack Morris for 50.

Frankton set about the chase with relish, Scott Hale guiding the home side to their target with an unbeaten 54 while Thomas Wilkie made 40 and Dean Pirro 39 not out.

Keys crashes century before rain pain

JOSH Keys struck a terrific century before Knockin & Kinnerley's clash against Forton in the Shropshire League division one was rained off.

Making first use of the wicket, Knockin rattled up a mammoth 315-9 in their 45 overs, with No3 Keys unlocking the door with a blistering 130, including 21 fours and two sixes.

Paul Higginson (43) and Luke Beckett (41no) also joined in the run feast, with John Hemmings taking 3-38.

After rain had intervened, Forton were set a re-

vised target of 232 from 29 overs, and had reached 127-4 in 17.4 overs before more rain forced an early conclusion.

Opener Ross Barton made a lively 73 not out for Forton, while Shaun Davis picked up a couple of wickets for the visitors.

Knockin & Kinnerley's second team remain in the lower reaches of the 2nd XI League division one after their high-scoring defeat to Frankton II at the Nursery Ground.

Put in to bat, Knockin posted a useful 219-7 in

their 40 overs, opener Lawrence Hitchen top scoring on 74 to lay the foundations while Lloyd Edwards weighed in with 40 and Joe Kynaston 29 before being run out.

Tom Cockayne picked up 2-33 as the wickets were shared among the visiting attack.

Ross Bladen then struck 58 to help Frankton on their way in reply, Sam Todd also weighing in with 37 as the target was reached with just over six overs to spare. There were two wickets apiece for Paul Przybylski-Garry and Lloyd Edwards.

Flying Fynn hits ton No3 but rain winner

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

WARRICK Fynn struck his third century of the season - but Oswestry's hopes of forcing victory against Wellington in the Birmingham League division one were thwarted by the weather.

After weeks of parched conditions, the Morda Road men were undone by the return of the rain as they had to settle for eight points when their encounter was abandoned with water standing on the pitch.

With the visitors opting to bat first, opener Fynn led the way with an unbeaten 104 to help his side declare on a promising 191-4 after 45 overs.

But Wellington, who were shot out for just 64 the week before, did not have the chance to get to the crease as paceman Ritu Raj Singh's final game for Oswestry tuned out to be a damp squib.

The overseas professional's hopes of producing some fireworks on his farewell appearance were dashed as heavy cloud and persistent rain swept over the Wrekin mid-afternoon, leaving pools of water on the square to make conditions unplayable.

This was after Fynn had guided his team to a promising position with an undefeated century - his third of the league campaign.

Fynn lost his opening partner Joe Carrasco (20) with 45 on the board when the right hander unluckily played on to his stumps from a delivery by Wellington off spinner Dan Lloyd which bounced.

Dangerous

Joined by youngster Xavie Clarke, the Oswestry pair put on 89 for the second wicket, before Clarke was bowled by Wellington captain Wendell Wagner as he shaped to play through mid-wicket.

Elder brother and skipper Robbie fell in similar fashion four overs later to the dangerous Wagner, following which tea was called as heavy rain brought the players off the field of play.

When the rain finally cleared, Oswestry resumed their innings with Fynn taking full advantage of the wet ball to up his century, whereupon Clarke declared.

North of the county, the weather was kinder as **OSWESTRY II** lost narrowly to their Wellington counter-parts in a highly entertaining game in the Birmingham League 2nd XI League division two (north).

After the Morda Road hosts had posted 176-8 in their 50 overs, some rain meant their visitors

Fast time trial times despite rain



Oswestry Paragon rider Jack Morris, who recorded a personal best time

JUST when riders had got used to warm and sunny summer evenings, round 12 of the Oswestry Paragon evening 10 series saw wet conditions and just 14 riders take to the start line.

It was a second victory of the year for junior Paragon rider Kieran Morris who, despite having a break from racing in previous weeks due to exams, crossed the line in 22mins 27secs.

This earned him a one minute

and one second winning margin, with second place going to another Paragon rider, Jack Morris, who again recorded another personal best to come home in 23:48, ahead of team mate Glyn Jones (24:04).

Fourth place went to James Davies in 24:27, putting him ahead of Andrew Howell (24:52) and Paul Davies (24:54).

Jack Young was the quickest junior in taking seventh spot in a

time of 25:31, finishing ahead of Colin Lythe who, despite coming home in 25:53, was feeling the effects of two events in two nights following the previous weekend's 100-mile event.

Ninth place went to DJ Fanning of VC Melyd in 26:03, and Simon Jones (26:51) beat fellow Hafren rider Jason Arnold (28:19) to round off the top 10.

Liz Breeze was the only woman to compete and finished in 29:53.

Ben back on Power for wins at double

BEN Power returned to the UK National Legends Car Championship with a brace of race wins in latest rounds at Donington Park.

The Guildsfield racing driver had not been in competitive since April, due to work commitments and getting married.

But the 28-year-old quickly shook off any rustiness on the Leicestershire track, taking third place in the first race of the weekend and winning the second in dominant style.

Saturday evening's final produced plenty of drama with Power seeing his own race ended with a broken axle.

The following day's races proved a nip and tuck affair, but Power held on to take his second victory of the weekend.

"The weekend was mixed for me," he said. "On Saturday we had two great races but then the axle snapped in the final unfortunately. Sunday started well with a great scrap for the win and the second race went pretty well despite some brake issues."

Power made his debut in the Legends Car series in 2009 - finishing eighth overall and 2nd in the rookie table, having switched to the circuits after winning the Junior Rallycross crown in 2006 and Supermodified Rallycross titles in 2007 and 2008.

His progress in Legends racing has seen him climb the rankings, narrowly missing out on the championship title last year.

The formula originated on the US oval tracks, and the cars have an American look, being 5/8-scale replicas of classic US models. Guttercrest Racing runs a Ford Coupe 1934 replica, with a 1250cc Yamaha motorcycle engine.

With identical cars and the fastest drivers having to start at the back of the grid, there is said to be more overtaking in a single Legends race than in a whole season of Formula 1.

Guttercrest Racing is backed by the family-owned aluminium guttering company Guttercrest, based in Oswestry. The team has further support from award-winning Cardiff-based PR and communications consultancy Welch Media.

Pool back on track with a vital victory

WELSHPOOL halted their slump in the Shropshire League division one with a welcome 96-run victory over Albrighton at Maesydre.

A five wicket blast from Joe Monk (5-37) helped skittle the visitors for 80 in reply to Pool's 176, with Will Metcalfe and Robert Anderson also tacking two wickets apiece.

Earlier, Nick Davies (31) and Metcalfe (26) helped Pool set a competitive total after batting first.

It was also a good day for Welshpool's second string who sealed a 54-run success over Allscott III in the 2nd XI League division three.

Greg Jones (54), David Whitehouse (46) and Mat Sherwood (31) played their part as Pool posted 198-6 in 40 overs.

Rupert Redway then snapped up 5-15 as Allscott were sent back for 144-9 in reply, despite resistance from Kevin Davy (51) and tailender Dave Woodcock who struck 36 late on. There were also two wickets for Sam Cadwallader (2-27).

GUILDSFIELD went down by 61 runs at Cullum in the fourth division as the batsmen enjoyed a good day in the sun at Shrewsbury's Union ground.

Opting to bat first, Cullum racked up a formidable 285-4 in 35 overs, before the Mid Wales visitors finished on a commendable 224-7 in reply.

Edgerton shines as Glas get vital win

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

ing one of the openers within the first few overs.

Bowling at the other end was the ever dependable Edgerton. and this tight bowling and superb catching set the tone for the afternoon.

Connor Glendinning, the league's most prolific batsmen last season, was scoring well for Chelmarsh, and had reached 48 before being caught by probably the best catch of the season so far at Gatacre by Bobby Phillips.

The Chelmarsh middle order batsmen kept the scoreboard moving and had reached 119-4 in the 32 overs and were looking to push on for a big score.

However, Coulson then took four wickets in two overs and Edgerton's two wickets in his final two overs saw the visitors collapse for 123 in the 39th over.

Cae Glas started positively in their innings, and reached 82-1 after 20 overs. However, they soon lost Holgate and Edgerton with still some 30 runs needed, but Coulson's rapid 15 not out saw the hosts home.

It was also a good day for **CAE GLAS II** who pulled off an emphatic 119-run success away to Corvedale II to boost their fortunes in the 2nd XI League division three.

Put in to bat, they profited to the tune of 226-6 in a match reduced to 35 overs a side, Nick Chesters cracking an undated 61 to help rescue the visitors after a shaky start. Tim Morris also made 37 and Shaun Southern 39 not out to bolster the total.

The Glas bowlers were soon among the wickets in reply and, despite Frank Bury's 64, they wrapped up the Dale innings for 107.

Chesters also struck with the ball in taking 4-36 while Southern capped a good day with 2-22.

Sport

Cycling
Fast times despite
wet weather – P39

Cricket
Fynn hits ton but
rain wins – P39



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Injuries mar St Martins pre-season

ST MARTINS are under no illusion about the task ahead when they start life in the newly formed Hallmark North West Counties League division one (south) with Saturday's trip to Barnton (3pm).

Promoted from the West Midlands League division one, the Saints are finishing a new challenge which gets underway against their Northwich hosts.

However, their plans have been disrupted with a number of pre-season injuries to key players, with Calum Graybrook fracturing his foot in warm-up and Harrison Millington also facing a spell on the sidelines with a broken collarbone.

With other players carrying knocks, it has not been the ideal preparation, particularly with early season league games coming thick and fast.

"With the injuries we've picked up, it has been a disastrous pre-season, and we've been nowhere near fielding the side we would have liked," said manager Dan Stevens.

He added: "We've made a lot of progress in the last 18 minutes from when we were bottom of the West Midlands League, but we won't be getting ahead of ourselves this season."

"With a small squad and small budget, we've got to be realistic, and we know it's going to be hard to compete against some of the sides."

"But we're going into the league with no pressure on us. Our plan is to consolidate, and I'm sure we will stay clear of relegation."

Ellesmere Rangers, who will also be playing in the league for the first time this season, will be looking for a winning start when they open against Warrington side Rylands at Beech Grove.

FC OSWESTRY TOWN, under new manager Matt Burton, will start at home to Sandbach, and will want to make their mark this term as they work alongside Welsh Premier champions TNS. They completed their pre-season by overcoming Gresford Athletic 6-3 with Liam Parry firing a hat-trick.

Townend is all set for Gatcombe meet

WORLD No 1 and Ellesmere based event rider Oliver Townend will be competing at the Magic Millions Festival of British Eventing at Gatcombe Park this week.

Townend will be riding seven horses over busy weekend from Friday to Sunday (3-5 August) including three in the Magic Millions British Open.

This event will see many top horse and rider combinations keen to win this prestigious title which Townend himself won in 2016.

The festival takes place over three days in the quintessential Cotswold's setting of Gatcombe Park in Gloucestershire, home of HRH The Princess Royal.

Townend will be riding Black Tie II, Cillnabradan Evo and Ulises in the British Open Championship.

Guils in semi by narrowest of margins

IN a dramatic turn of events in the Graham Edwards Memorial Trophy, Guilsfield reserves booked their semi-final place with a 5-0 beating of Gobowen Celtic in their last group B game.

Gobowen had won their first two outings, but missed out on a place in the last four as St Martins and Guilsfield progressed after a goal flurry.

Danny Barton have the Guils a 12th minute lead against Celtic, Jack Harris doubled the advantage on 26 minutes before Calum Bromley made it 3-0 just 35 seconds after the interval.

Sub John Lloyd added No4 on 80 minutes, before his second six minutes later saw Guilsfield top the group on goal difference.

FOOTBALL by John Bridgewater

Despite having an identical goal difference to Gobowen, St Martins finished second in the group by virtue of scoring one more goal following their 6-2 victory over Llanfyllin.

Mitch Challenor, Dan Challenor and Chris Scott had them 3-2 up before three goals in injury time through subs Joe Ellis (2) and Harry Bolland saw the Saints through. Their crucial sixth goal came courtesy of Ellis' penalty with the last kick of the game in the eighth minute of injury time.

The six goal victory meant that St Martins

went through to the semi-final where they took on Kinnerley on Tuesday, while Guilsfield face St Martins Village. The final will be held on Sunday (3pm), with all games taking place on the Gobowen Playing Fields.

Kinnerley topped Group A after their 8-0 thrashing of Llangollen reserves with Chris Aitken firing a hat-trick along with braces from Tom Freeman and sub Iwan Matthews. Jordan Gerrard got the other. St Martins Village also made the semi-finals despite going down 1-0 to TNS U19s who took the spoils with a 75th minute strike from Ryan McVeigh. The villagers finished with 10 men after having Kieran Barry sent off.

TNS BOSS: JOB IS HALF DONE

FOOTBALL by John Bridgewater

THE New Saints 'still have work to do' if they are to progress to the third qualifying round of the Europa League in Thursday night's return mission against Lincoln Red Imps in Gibraltar.

Holding a slender 2-1 advantage from the first leg at Park Hall, the Welsh Premier champions know they can ill afford any slip-ups on the Rock (6pm) if they are to keep their flag flying.

"We're definitely not going over there thinking 2-1 is enough and that the tie is over, it's far from over," said manager Scott Ruscoe. "The job is only half done, there's still work to do. We need to go again, hopefully get an early goal, and look to win the game and keep the momentum going."

"We need to start on the front foot. We're always looking to get goals, and I'm confident we'll score as we will create chances, but we must make sure we manage the game properly."

Ruscoe felt his side should be going into second leg with a more healthy advantage after spurning some golden opportunities against the Red Imps at Park Hall.

"In the second half, it could have been three or four, although they could have got another," he added.

"But you've got to be happy with a win, and sometimes you don't play well but still get a good result. We were disappointed to concede from a free-kick as they did not really trouble us."

■ Due to their involvement in the Europa League, TNS' opening day clash in the Welsh Premier with Barry Town United at Park Hall has been put back 24 hours to Sunday, August 12 (2.30).

■ Defender Connell Rawlinson, who left TNS during the summer to join Port Vale, netted his first goal for the Valiants in their 4-2 friendly defeat against Shrewsbury Town.

Derby date at Morda Road



Ton-up Warwick Fynn plays a late cut against Wellington at Morda Road. ■ Pic: John Cutts.

OSWESTRY'S cricketers are gearing up for a crunch home fixture with county rivals Shifnal on Saturday (12noon) as they look to cement their place in the upper echelons of the Birmingham League division one.

The Morda Road men were thwarted by the rain last weekend as their trip to struggling Wellington was abandoned with pools of water lying on the pitch.

With all games in the division curtailed by the weather, it's as you were in the table as Oswestry remain fourth - 19 points behind this weekend's second placed visitors.

And with eight matches remaining, they will want to build on the progress they have made this season and finish the campaign in style.

However, they will no longer have the services of Indian paceman Ritu Raj Singh who has now left the club to return home.

His final game turned out to be a damp squib, with the encounter at Wellington abandoned after Oswestry had declared on 191-4 off 45 overs.

Hopes of victory were then dashed as heavy clouds swept in and persistent rain left pools of water on the square to make conditions unplayable.

This was after Warwick Fynn had guided his team to a promising position with an undefeated century - his third of the league campaign. His undefeated 104, off 120 balls, included 11 fours and 2 sixes.

Oswestry duo in the county side

SHROPSHIRE have called up Oswestry duo Joe Carrasco and Warrick Fynn for this weekend's trip to Bournemouth to face Dorset in the Unicorns Cricket Championship.

Bryan Jones, Shropshire's chairman of selectors, hopes the in-form duo can help provide the runs the county struggled to put on the board when they were beaten at Berkshire, the Western Division leaders, last week.

That was a first defeat of the season in the Championship for Shropshire following wins over Cheshire and Herefordshire and leaves them second in the table, 18 points behind Berkshire, with three matches to play.

Carrasco will be making his first county appearance of the season while Fynn returns after playing in the opening Championship match against Cheshire at Shifnal when he contributed with both bat and ball, taking five wickets with his left-arm spin.

They replace Robbie Clarke and Ryan Lockley from the side beaten at Finchampstead.

Jones said: "Apart from Alexei Kervezee, we struggled for runs against Berkshire, so we've brought Warrick and Joe into the team. Warrick scored a hundred for Oswestry at Wellington in the Birmingham League last weekend and Joe also scored a hundred recently and has been in good form."

"They are both available to play the rest of the season, and hopefully they, along with the other batsmen, can make a good contribution."

Referring to the Western Division title race, Jones added: "This is probably a must-win game for us."

The three-day clash with Dorset starts on Sunday (11am).

Shropshire: Steve Leach (Shifnal, captain), Omar Ali (C&R Hawks), Will Parton (Shrewsbury), Warrick Fynn (Oswestry), Alexei Kervezee (Halesowen), Joe Carrasco (Oswestry), Ross Aucott (Shifnal), Simon Gregory (Bridgnorth), Sam Whitney (Bridgnorth), Gurjit Sandhu (Twickenham), Alex Wyatt (Shifnal). **12th man:** Jack Edwards (Shifnal).

Cardiff calling if New Saints win

SHOULD The New Saints progress, they will stage their Europa League third qualifying round tie at the 33,000 seater Cardiff City Stadium.

With Park Hall not meeting UEFA's stadium requirements and Wrexham unavailable, the Saints will be heading to the capital for the tie on Thursday, August 9.

The Cardiff stadium is back in the English Premier League this season following the club's promotion from the Championship.

This wouldn't be the first time that the Saints have played a home game in the capital though.

Back in 2003, current English champions Manchester City were the visitors to the Millennium Stadium for a UEFA Cup qualifying match, running out 2-0 winners on the night.

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